

'Forward with confidence'

Bush sworn in, vows to spread liberty worldwide



President Bush takes the oath of office from Chief Justice William Rehnquist, right, with first lady Laura Bush and his twin daughters, Barbara and Jenna, at his side Thursday at the U.S. Capitol. In background are Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., second from right, and Sen. Trent Lott, R-Miss., chairman of the congressional inaugural committee.

- Bush says U.S. freedom depends on freedom abroad **Pages 3, 4**
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- Troops revel in opportunity to be part of 2nd-term ceremony **Page 5**

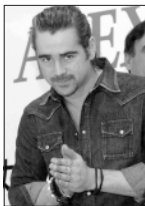
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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

O.J. Simpson's younger daughter: O.J. Simpson's 19-year-old daughter was arrested after she refused to stop yelling profanities at officers in Miami who had been summoned because of a fight outside a basketball game involving her old prep school, police said.

Sydney Simpson was charged Saturday with resisting arrest without violence, punishable by up to a year in jail, and disorderly conduct, which carries a possible 60-day jail sentence.

Oil-for-food scandal: An Iraqi-born American businessman accused of skimming money from the United Nations oil-for-food program has pleaded guilty to being an illegal agent of Saddam Hussein's government.

Samir A. Vincent, 64, a naturalized U.S. citizen from Annandale, Va., is the first person to be charged in the Justice Department's investigation of the program. He entered his plea Tuesday in New York.

Business

ImClone settlement: Sam Waksal, the imprisoned ImClone Systems Inc. founder at the center of an insider-trading scandal that ensnared Martha Stewart, and his father have agreed to pay a total of some \$5 million to resolve civil charges in the case, regulators announced Wednesday.

Sam and Jack Waksal neither admitted nor denied wrongdoing in the settlement with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Sam Waksal pleaded guilty in late 2002 to securities fraud and is serving a seven-year, three-month sentence at a federal prison in Pennsylvania. Stewart is also in prison.

World

Dorm slaying in China: A 21-year-old man who broke into a Chinese high school dormitory and stabbed nine boys to death has been executed less than two months after the attack, the government announced Thursday.

Yan Yanning was put to death Tuesday in the central province of Henan, where he was convicted of attacking the boys on Nov. 25 in the city of Ruzhou, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

Canadian mad cow cases: Government officials are now tracing six cows shipped into the United States from the same Canadian herd as an animal with mad cow disease.

The infected dairy cow was born within one year of the others.

Agriculture department spokesman Ed



TRACY HULL/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Taking the test: At Atsugi Naval Air Facility, Japan, a petty officer 1st class contemplates the answer to a question Thursday on his chief petty officer advancement examination. More than 140 sailors took the annual exam Thursday to determine whether they are prepared for the board selection process and possible advancement to chief petty officer.

Lloyd said Wednesday that the agency is tracking the cows.

Honduras bus assault: One of the alleged masterminds of a gang that killed 28 people on a bus in Honduras last month was found dead in a prison bathroom, and officials said they believe the death was a homicide.

Security Minister Oscar Alvarez said the body of Juan Bautista Jimenez, 27, was found Tuesday hanging in Honduras' National Penitentiary, outside Tegucigalpa.

The massacre took place on a bus filled with workers returning home and shoppers buying gifts for Christmas.

Beef imports to Japan: Japanese and U.S. officials are nearing a resolution to a 13-month ban on American beef imports to Japan that could soon have U.S. beef producers regaining limited access to a billion-dollar market, a U.S. agricultural official said Wednesday.

"We feel we have reached a mutual resolution for trade resumption ... and that that resolution is close at hand," said Chuck Lambert, deputy under secretary for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's marketing and regulatory programs.

Japan banned American beef imports in December 2003 after the discovery of the first U.S. case of mad cow disease, or bovine spongiform encephalopathy.

Dead Chinese leader: China will hold a memorial for ousted Communist Party leader Zhao Ziyang at its main cemetery for revolutionary heroes in Beijing but it hasn't been decided whether he will be buried there, a relative said Thursday.

The issue of official mourning for Zhao — ousted in 1989 after sympathizing with pro-democracy protesters — is sensitive for the government, which does not want to incite sympathy for a figure accused of endangering communist rule.

Zhao, 85, died Monday after spending his last 15 hours under house arrest.

War on terrorism

Gitmo detainees: A federal judge in Washington threw out a lawsuit by foreign-born terror suspects challenging their detention in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, ruling that last year's landmark Supreme Court ruling did not provide them the legal basis to win their freedom.

U.S. District Judge Richard Leon ruled Wednesday that Congress had authorized the president to order the detention of "enemy combatants" for the duration of the war on terror. The proper place to contest their detainment is before military review boards, not federal courts, Leon said.

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INAUGURATION

Bush takes oath for second term

Americans flood capital during 55th presidential inauguration

BY DEB RIECHMANN
AND DAVID ESPO

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — George W. Bush swore the presidential oath for a second term in turbulent times Thursday and issued a sweeping pledge to spread liberty and freedom "to the darkest corners of the world."

"Our country has accepted obligations that are difficult to fulfill and would be dishonorable to abandon," said the president, who led the nation to war in Iraq in a first term marked by terrorist attacks on the United States.

In a speech delivered before a vast throng of fellow Americans spilling away from the steps of the Capitol, Bush said he would place the nation on the side of the world's oppressed people. "All who live in tyranny and hopelessness can know: the United States will not ignore your oppression, or excuse your oppressors. When you stand for your liberty, we will stand with you."

Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist, 80, ailing with thyroid cancer and the subject of retirement speculation, administered the oath of office. The 58-year-old president placed one hand on a family Bible and raised the other as he recited an oath as old as the Republic.

The weather was cold; security was extraordinarily tight for the nation's 55th inauguration, the first since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. Newly sworn in, Bush offered an implied rebuttal to critics of his foreign policy and the war in Iraq. "Some, I know, have questioned the global appeal of liberty," he said, "though this time in history, four decades defined by the swiftest advance of freedom ever seen, is an odd time for doubt."

"We go forward with complete confidence in the eventual triumph of freedom," he said in remarks that were short of all but the most glancing references to



Capitol Hill visitors and guests watch President Bush's inauguration ceremony Thursday in Washington.

**See related photos on Page 10 and
inaugural parade coverage on Page 11**

the dominant political issues of the day.

Instead, he packed the first speech of a new term with multiple references to freedom and liberty, references to God — and a reminder of Abraham Lincoln's long-ago admonition. "Those who deny freedom to others deserve it not for themselves, and, under the rule of a just God, cannot long retain it," he quoted the 16th president.

The spread of freedom and liberty were the oldest ideals of America, Bush said. "Now it is the urgent requirement of our nation's security, and the calling of our time."

Bush, his family and congressional leaders moved into the Capitol following the midday swearing in and speech, joining other

members of the nation's political elite for lunch. "I'm looking forward to putting my heart and soul into this job for four more years," he said.

"We're ready to go to work," replied Sen. Trent Lott, R-Miss., chairman of the congressional inaugural committee. Eager to begin, the GOP-controlled Senate convened at mid-afternoon and confirmed Mike Johanns as secretary of agriculture, the first of Bush's second-term Cabinet officers to win approval.

The president awoke before dawn in the White House, then traveled a few blocks with his wife Laura and their twin daughters, Jenna and Barbara, to the traditional pre-inauguration prayer service.

A few hours later they jour-

neyed 16 blocks along historic Pennsylvania Avenue to the Capitol, where Bush stood four years earlier to take the office for the first time.

Bush's victory made him the 16th president in American history to win a second term after a full first four years — an accomplishment denied his father in 1992. In the process, he led Republicans to larger majorities in the House and Senate, and has outlined a conservative second-term domestic agenda that includes major changes in Social Security and taxes.

But with the war a concern, he was beginning his new term with the lowest approval rating at that point of any recent two-term president — 49 percent in an Associated Press poll this month. Bush is the nation's 43rd president.

Vice President Dick Cheney took the oath for a second term moments before the president. House Speaker J. Dennis Hastert of Illinois swore him in.

Voices from the inauguration

What people were saying at the 55th presidential inauguration:

■ "Personally, I don't feel much like celebrating. So I'm going to mark the occasion by pledging to do everything in my power to fight the extremist Republican's destructive agenda."

— Nancy Pelosi, House Democratic leader, D-Calif., in a fund-raising appeal for 2006

■ "It's a very wonderful day, important day for the United States and for the people of the hemisphere. We are pleased to join in the celebration."

— Jamaican Ambassador Gordon Shirley

"It probably makes

[U.S. troops overseas] stand a little taller, a little prouder [because of] the continuity and stability that an event like this represents."

Richard Myers

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

■ "The president has talked about uniting our nation and working in a bipartisan manner for the good of all Americans. It is my hope these words can be turned into action and that together we can meet the challenges facing Washington state and the nation."

— Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash.

■ "I attended 'to show my support and represent the age that's going to make the difference."

— College student Christine Sill, 21, from Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas

■ "You never get used to this weather, but it's a beautiful day. It's an historic day."

— Rep. Lincoln Diaz-Balart, R-Fla.

From The Associated Press

Inaugural security goes according to plan

BY CURT ANDERSON

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Thousands of police provided unprecedented security for President Bush's inauguration, trying to leave nothing to chance for the first presidential swearing-in ceremony since the Sept. 11 terror attacks.

Federal officials long have said the inauguration provided an inviting target for terrorists, but no intelligence emerged in the days leading up to it indicating an attack was planned.

"Everything is going in accordance with the

plan," said Secret Service spokesman Jonathan Cherry.

Security measures included rooftop snipers and observers, helicopter and jet patrols, anti-aircraft missile batteries, boat patrols on the Potomac River, bomb-sniffing dogs and careful screening of people arriving to watch the ceremony and parade.

Senior officials representing two dozen agencies ranging from the FBI to the District of Columbia mayor's office monitored video cameras, and employed aerial surveillance flights and sensors that can detect the presence of nuclear, biological or chemical weapons.

On Pennsylvania Avenue — the route of Bush's inaugural parade — police and military personnel stood shoulder-to-shoulder to form a human barrier between spectators and the parade participants. Spectators also were held back by a grid of metal barriers.

The tight security produced long lines of people trying to get into the Capitol complex, with some reporting waits of between 20 and 45 minutes. Several streets were closed around the Capitol, forcing inaugural guests, onlookers, Capitol staffers and workers to try to squeeze through the same security gates.

Elder Bush feels pride at son's 2nd inaugural

BY DARLENE SUPERVILLE
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — By tradition, he was there as a former president.

But George Herbert Walker Bush also was a dad, proudly watching Thursday as eldest child George Walker Bush was sworn in to a second term as president — achieving what the father was denied.

No tears flowed this time, unlike George W.'s first inauguration in 2001, when the eyes of both father and son welled up. But the younger Bush seemed misty-eyed as he sat in a leather chair on the platform on the West Front of the Capitol, waiting to log another milestone in his family's long political history.

The two Bushes shook hands before the ceremony, dad gripping his son's right hand with both of his.

"The pride we feel this week is the same pride every parent feels when they see their son hit a home run or their daughter come home with straight A's," the former president said this week.

George H.W. Bush lost his bid for re-election in 1992, and the defeat is said to have deeply wounded the elder Bush.

The elder Bush — whose presence as a former president is an indispensable part of the ceremony — is the first father to watch a child be sworn in to the nation's highest office since Joseph Kennedy at the inauguration of John F. Kennedy in 1961.



President Bush delivers his inaugural address Thursday on Capitol Hill in Washington. Missing from the president's speech was any direct mention of the war in Iraq.

Iraq talk absent from Bush speech

BY RON FOURNIER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Not a word in Iraq. President Bush's inaugural address contained 2,000 words of passion and promise for his second term, but no direct mention of the war that could sink it.

The conflict in Iraq, win or lose, could define his presidency.

Bush knows this as well as anyone, which explains his strategic omission.

As he swore the oath for a second time, U.S. casualty totals in Iraq stood at more than 1,360 dead and 10,500 wounded. The war already cost \$100 billion, with a price tag running at more than \$1 billion a week.

A majority of Americans say the conflict is not worth the cost in lives and money, polls show, though they seem willing to give the president time to stabilize Iraq.

Bush asked for the public's patience Thurs-

Analysis

day, as he did during his re-election campaign. "Our country has accepted obligations that are difficult to fulfill, and would be dishonorable to abandon," the president said.

That, along with a tribute to fallen troops, is the closest Bush got to mentioning Iraq.

He focused instead on the global war against terrorism, promising to eradicate evil wherever it lurks. Fighting and killing terrorists has the advantage of being politically popular, and his promise to do so stirs memories of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks — "a day of fire" and Bush's shining hour.

Indeed, the key to Bush's re-election victory was his ability to convince a majority of voters that Iraq is part of his anti-terrorism cam-

paign. Despite what Bush has said, voters did not ratify his Iraq policies last November — they simply accepted his world view, for the time being, that lumped Iraq in with the global war on terror.

Will voters continue to accept Bush's rationale? "That's the great unanswered question," said Tom Rath of New Hampshire, a Bush ally and senior member of the Republican National Committee. "Iraq has the capacity of draining the president politically or, if it works out, mobilizing people behind him."

"If the perception is that democracy is taking hold, he becomes virtually invulnerable," Rath said. "If not, well, let's not talk about that."

Iraq is the source of greatest concern. "You didn't elect me to do small things," Bush told RNC members in a private session this week. "I got four years and I'm going to use them."

How effectively he uses that time will likely depend upon, in a word, Iraq.

Rehnquist performs duty

WASHINGTON — Looking frail but determined, his voice strained from thyroid cancer, Chief Justice William Rehnquist emerged from months of seclusion to swear in President Bush.

The 80-year-old Rehnquist managed a weak smile as he walked with a cane and took his place on the podium. A scar

marked his neck as he appeared to slip, exposing a tracheostomy tube that helps him breathe.

Rehnquist, who has been shrouded in mystery since October when he issued a statement saying he had cancer and dropped out of sight as he underwent treatment.

They were skeptical that he would be well enough to administer the oath, but after Bush and other leaders took their place on the Capitol stage, the chief justice emerged and walked gingerly down the flight of stairs to join them.

His first public appearance in three months was brief. He administered the oath in a clear but raspy voice — very different from

his usual deep-pitched speech. It was the fifth and very likely last time he will swear in a president.

"That was an incredibly moving part of the ceremony," Bush said later.

Rehnquist's court colleagues, looking serene, watched from just a few feet away.

His gaunt appearance surprised people who know him well. "I was heartened to see him out, impressed by his dedication to his job. But I was sobered to see him and to hear his voice," said Richard Garnett, a former Rehnquist clerk who teaches law at Notre Dame. "In my mind, the chief justice is such a strong and vigorous person."

Back in time for lunch

RICHMOND, Va. — Sen. John W. Warner was hospitalized for treatment of a kidney stone, then managed to be released in time to have lunch with President Bush after the president's formal inauguration.

An aide said the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee was released too late from Walter Reed Army Medical Center to attend the formal inaugural Thursday.

"He's feeling great and having lunch with the president," John Ullroy said of his 77-year-old boss. Warner's wife, Jeanne, also attended, he said.

From The Associated Press

'There came a day of fire'

The Associated Press

Some highlights of President Bush's inauguration speech:

At this second gathering, our duties are defined not by the words I use, but by the history we have seen together. For a half century, America defended our own freedom by standing watch on distant borders. After the shipwreck of communism came years of relative quiet, years of repose, years of sabbatical — and then there came a day of fire ...

We are led, by events and common sense, to one conclusion: The survival of liberty in our land increasingly depends on the success of liberty in other lands. The best hope for peace in our world is the expansion of freedom in all the world.

So it is the policy of the United States to seek and support the growth of democratic movements and institutions in every nation and culture, with the ultimate goal of ending tyranny in our world ...

The great objective of ending tyranny is the concentrated work of generations. The difficulty of the task is no excuse for avoiding it. America's influence is not unlimited, but fortunately for the oppressed, America's influence is considerable, and we will use it

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My most solemn duty is to protect this nation and its people against further attacks and emerging threats. Some have unwisely chosen to test America's resolve, and have found it firm.

We will persistently clarify the choice before every ruler and every nation. The moral choice between oppression, which is always wrong, and freedom, which is eternally right. America will not pretend that jailed dissidents prefer their chains, or that women welcome humiliation and servitude, or that any human being aspires to live at the mercy of bullies ...

From all of you, I have asked patience in the hard task of securing America, which you have granted in good measure. Our country has accepted obligations that are difficult to fulfill, and would be dishonorable to aban-

don. Yet because we have acted in the great liberating tradition of this nation, tens of millions have achieved their freedom ...

In America's ideal of freedom, citizens find the dignity and security of economic independence, instead of laboring on the edge of subsistence. This is the broader definition of liberty that motivated the Homestead Act, the Social Security Act, and the GI Bill of Rights. And now we will extend this vision by reforming great institutions to serve the needs of our time. To give every American a stake in the promise and future of our country, we will bring the highest standards to our schools, and build an ownership society. We will widen the ownership of homes and businesses, retirement savings and health insurance — preparing our people for the challenges of life in a free society.

We go forward with complete confidence in the eventual triumph of freedom. Not because history runs on the wheels of inevitability, it is human choices that move events. Not because we consider ourselves a chosen nation, God moves and chooses. He wills. We have confidence because freedom is the permanent hope of mankind, the hunger in dark places, the longing of the soul.

Rehnquist

INAUGURATION

Troops see inauguration as special event

BY PATRICK DICKSON

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The 55th Inauguration festivities in Washington were special for everyone — but none more than the U.S. military.

"I think it's wonderful," said Spc. James Loomis, 21, of Lynchburg, Va. "I'll probably be the only time that I can be in uniform on our nation's capital."



Dineen

Washington's command for a few days.

"They called the governor, and here we are. It's wonderful."

Staff Sgt. Kristopher Provencher, of the 621st Air Mobility Squadron at McGuire Air Force Base, N.J., put in for the duty.

"I like it," the Manchester, N.H., native said. "It's really different to see how it comes together, with 150,000 people showing up. It's kind of amazing."

Provencher, 29, wasn't bothered by the protesters shouting as they walked past.

"They don't bother us [military

people]," he said.

Working security alongside him was Christopher Dineen, on temporary duty from Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, for about a month.

"I wanted this. I had to go through two applications processes — I failed the first time. This is a once-in-a-lifetime thing."

Was he bothered by the bitter cold, coming from Hawaii? "Oh, no. I was [stationed] at Malmstrom [Air Force Base] in Montana for 11 years. This is great!"

Thousands of military people had been tasked with security for the parade and other inauguration events, but some came just to be part of the party, or to show their colors.



Hoyt

Geoffrey Hoyt, 30, of Dansville, N.Y., came with his family to support the president.

"Very much so," he said.

He rode Metro to the events, where, he said, he saw "all kinds of protesters" riding in, especially vocal anti-war protesters.

"They were dressed like President Bush and Vice President Cheney, and the guy dressed like

the president had the world under his arm and he was drinking a can of oil."

Hoyt, of the 113th Communications Squadron in Washington, an Air National Guard unit, was jostled by protesters as he talked. "Quite a mixed crowd," he mused.

Also there just to support the president had words of encouragement for those deployed, as well.

"Good luck and — can I swear? Good luck and kick ass!"

Nearby, Zegir "Ziggy" Berisha, a native of Kosovo and now a citizen with two sons in the U.S. Army and two in the Marines, waved his flag and shouted support for Bush. "This nation underneath God is best on Earth!"

Asked about the protesters, he shrugged them off.

"Disagree is good! I disagree with my wife 35 years! Disagree is OK."

Berisha spoke of how different it was when he was living in Yugoslavia under Josip Broz Tito.

"Tito used to shoot people for speaking against them. He shot two of my friends."

Berisha is a little more reserved about free speech when it comes to his boys.

"I tell them, you speak against this country, you speak against me!"

E-mail Patrick Dickson at: dicksonp@strips.osd.mil



MORGAN LOOSLI/Stars and Stripes

Zegir "Ziggy" Berisha, 62, a native of Kosovo who is now a U.S. citizen, shows his support for President Bush before the inaugural parade. Ziggy called the celebration "the best! I was here four years ago, and I'm here again. It's like I'm born again!"

Protesters hit streets for Bush ceremony

BY GENARO C. ARMAS
AND LIBBY QUAD

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Anti-Bush demonstrators waving signs that said "Worst President Ever" and "the American Nightmare" jeered the president's motorcade during the inaugural parade Thursday.

The procession of cars sped up as President Bush neared the designated location for the parade on Pennsylvania Avenue. Two rows of police lined the street in front of the main protest site.

Officers stationed atop buildings along the route kept close watch on the crowd.

Boos rained down from the crowd and some demonstrators shouted, "No justice, no peace." In some places in the protest area, the crowd was about six rows deep.

Three blocks from the White House, protesters tried to rush a security gate and a flag was burned. Police briefly locked down the area, trapping some 400 to 500 spectators.

Annie Katz, 52, of New York, was at the rear of a group of protesters, but she said the experi-



Juan Carlos Reyes of Lake Tahoe, Calif., carries protest signs labeling President Bush and Vice President Cheney as "warmongers" during Inauguration Day protests in downtown Washington.

ence was worth it despite the bad view. Katz said she was upset by the 2000 election, but "I'm angrier this time, since I'm angry about the war."

Some rallying against the war carried coffin-like cardboard boxes to signify the deaths of U.S. troops in Iraq. Some of their chants could be heard as Bush neared the end of his inaugural address. The president continued speaking without interruption and there was no sign that he heard them.

On Capitol Hill, some protesters were briefly detained by police and released after Bush finished speaking, said Andrea

Buffa, spokeswoman for Code-Pink: Women for Peace, one of the anti-war groups.

Michael Lauer, a Capitol Police spokesman, said police made five arrests during Bush's address. District of Columbia police said they had to use pepper spray to break up a "push and shoving match" between officers and protesters near the start of the parade. A police spokesman said at least one officer was slightly injured.

Police and witnesses said a security checkpoint near the White House was briefly shut down after being blocked by protesters.

Witnesses said the protesters started pulling down flags and inaugural banners from lampposts, and said police used pepper spray on some protesters.

Cheney: Presidency has been restored to power

BY BOB WOODWARD

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Vice President Dick Cheney said in an interview that the proper work of the presidency has finally been restored after being diminished in the wake of the Vietnam War and Watergate, and that President Bush contributed to the process by not allowing his narrow victory in the 2000 presidential race to inhibit him during his first term.

"Even after we went through all of that, he never wanted to allow, correctly, the closeness of our election to in any way diminish the power of the presidency, lead him to make a decision that he needed to somehow trim his sails, and be less than a fully authorized, if you will, commander in chief, leader of our government, president of the United States," Cheney said in a December interview that was to be broadcast Thursday night on "Inside the Presidency," a documentary on the History Channel.

Bush's assertiveness in the early days of his presidency, Cheney said, meant that he was able to respond decisively after the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001. "Faced with a whole new threat, set of challenges, you needed a strong, decisive president, and that's exactly what we had," Cheney said.

Cheney said that the "low point" of presidential power occurred at the beginning of Gerald Ford's

presidency and that "over time" it has been restored, despite such challenges as the Iran-Contra investigation under President Ronald Reagan, which Cheney characterized as an attempt to try to "criminalize a policy difference" between the president and Congress.

"I think, in fact, there has been over time a restoration, if you will, of the power and authority of the president," Cheney said.

Cheney was especially critical of anything that would undermine the president's powers as commander in chief. He said he agrees with many who believe the War Powers Act, which was passed in 1973 and attempts to restrict the president's use of military force, is "unconstitutional."

"That made a change in the institutional arrangements that I don't think is healthy," the vice president said. "I don't think you should restrict the president's authority to deploy military forces because of the Vietnam experience."

History has been cheated after Watergate, he said. "The investigations that have occurred over the years, the role of the special prosecutors and so forth have dried up a major source for history."

"I don't keep a diary," he said, adding that he also does not use e-mail. "And I don't write letters."

So where is the record? "It's all right up here," he said, pointing to his head. "And I suppose that'll fade over the years."

INAUGURATION

Yee-haw!

Texans well shod for two-stepping at 'Boots' ball

BY LIZ SIDOTTI

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — First lady Laura Bush chose high fashion for the Black Tie and Boots Ball, sporting a raspberry silk taffeta Carolina Herrera ensemble with a Western touch — a full skirt and fitted bodice resembling a button-down shirt.

But for many of President Bush's Texas supporters, the ball was more about the boots — and less about the couture.

The Texas State Society's gala Wednesday was arguably the most unconventional bash of inaugural week — at least in fashion terms.

It's the only party in town where the 10,000 guests are not just encouraged but expected to pair down-home duds like Stetson hats and Tony Lama kicks with tuxedos and evening gowns.

Sarah Furlow, 19, needed just the right footwear — in color and style — to go with the brown, light head-and-shoulder slip dress from Cache that she already had hanging in her closet.

The Texas Tech University fashion design major found the pair — on the feet of a friend while they were at the movies.

"I asked her if I could borrow them and she took them off in the movie theater and walked out barefoot," Furlow said, still laughing at the episode.

Lorian Sessions of San Antonio donned a new pair of black kangaroo-dressed with a white skirt, an embroidered, with an aqua-colored mini-wrap she bought on sale at Saks. The 35-year-old wore it over a simple black floor-length gown.



President Bush looks toward the balcony Wednesday as his daughter Jenna flashes the University of Texas "Longhorn" sign at the Texas State Society's Black Tie and Boots Ball, the week's first inaugural gala. Looking over the president's shoulder is Jenna's twin, Barbara.

More coverage on Pages 10, 11

"It was \$35. I bought it 10 years ago two sizes too big. I figured I'd either let it out or take it in when I finally wore it."

"I had to take it in, thank God. I refused to put a thousand-dollar dress with a pair of boots!" she said.

Her husband, Mark, said the special part of his ensemble was

not the custom-made tuxedo he got from a tailor in Texas. It was his lizard skin boots.

Sue Brannon, chairwoman of the Midland County Republican Party in Texas, took her boots with her when she shopped for her clingy and sparkly red floor-length frock.

"These are red snakes. My husband bought them for me 15 years ago. These are my dancing boots. They're Tony Lamas. I love them so much," said Brannon, 67, who also added to her outfit a rhinestone tiara, a matching brooch that spelled Bush and the Texas flag on a necklace.

Bush hopes to avoid 'second-term curse'

BY DAVID S. BRODER

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — As he takes the oath of office for the second time Thursday, President Bush will confront major challenges, including an unfinished war in Iraq and a looming budget deficit and determined political opposition at home. And he also must overcome what some historians refer to as the "second-term curse" — the pattern of meager progress and increasing frustration for almost every re-elected president in modern times.

Bush has armed himself for these struggles in the best way he knows how, by rolling up a popular vote majority and spurring his party to gains in Congress. He told The Washington Post in an interview last Friday: "I'm excited about the second term. I worked hard to get there and campaigned on some specific issues that I'm looking forward to working with the Congress on."

But if the portraits of former second-term presidents could speak to Bush, almost all would say: "Beware what may befall you."

Don Woodrow Wilson, who suffered a stroke and saw his dream of the League of Nations rejected, down to Bill Clinton, who had to survive an impeachment effort, the pattern has not been happy.

The election provided Bush with a strong start in meeting the challenges of his second term. He improved on his 2000 showing, when he trailed Al Gore in the popular vote, and in November he became the first Republican president in 104 years to be reelected with majorities in both the House and the Senate.

Since Election Day, he has substantially revised his Cabinet, naming new people to run nine of the 15 departments.

Bush will need all the momentum he can muster, because the challenges are formidable. As the war in Iraq heads into its third year, the casualties continue and the outcome remains in doubt. It has been costly

Analysis

in lives and treasure, and it has strained the capacity of the U.S. military to meet other global commitments.

Meanwhile, here at home, the bill is coming due on the huge budget deficits of his first term, even as demands rise for more government spending on health care, education and transportation.

As if all that were not enough, the president has placed at the top of his agenda the revision of four basic American institutions.

■ He wants to change the Social Security system, the 70-year-old prop for the retirement planning of all workers and their families, shifting it from a fixed monthly government stipend to a payout that would depend on people's skills in gauging the financial markets.

■ He wants to intervene to slow the flood of lawsuits filed in civil cases, limit the awards for damages, and reduce the incentives for lawyers to file such suits.

■ He wants to revise American high schools, stiffening the requirements for graduation, even as grade schools nationwide still struggle to meet the requirements he put on them in his first term.

■ And he wants to remake the judicial branch of government with the appointment of more "strict constructionist" judges.

Schwarzenegger drops by, weighs in

WASHINGTON — California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger left the state's budget deficit — and Democratic wife Maria Shriver — back home when he made a quick trip to the snow-covered capital for Inauguration Day.

Schwarzenegger surprised constituents at a breakfast on Thursday hosted by his closest Washington ally, Rep. David Dreier, R-Calif.

Guests crowded around him to pose for pictures. "Hasta la vista, baby!" said one fan, invoking Schwarzenegger's "Terminator" movie roles.

Even members of Congress requested autographs.

"It's always really very exciting celebrating, you know, a new beginning," Schwarzenegger said.

The Austrian-born former bodybuilder also weighed in, unasked, on foreign-policy goals for President Bush. "I'm sure he has an interest, like every American, to get out of this war as quickly as possible," Schwarzenegger said. "The key thing now is, is to really create great relationships overseas."

Politics makes for strange tablemates

Like the pairing of lobster and quail on the menu, the inaugural luncheon in the Capitol after Bush's swearing-in brought together people who typically wouldn't sit together.

Former President Clinton and Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., joined by Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., and his wife, Victoria Reggie Kennedy, shared a table with Karl Rove, the president's chief political adviser.

Notes & Quotes

Former President Carter, an outspoken critic of Bush's Iraq policy, was seated with Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, while 23-year-old Bush daughter Jenna was able to chat with 70-year-old Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, and 84-year-old Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens.

Her twin, Barbara, got a chance to discuss her father's speech with House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, R-Texas. At the same table were three women of influence: State Department Secretary-nominee Condoleezza Rice, Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor and the president's mother, Barbara Bush.

Chill brings out the tops in toppers

With temperatures around 30 degrees, hats, earmuffs and warm clothes were the order of the day on the podium where members of Congress and other VIPs watched the inaugural ceremony.

"Last night, walking in the cold, I lost my voice, which is pretty tough for a politician," said a bundled-up Rep. Lincoln Diaz-Balart, a Florida Republican. "You never get used to this weather, but it's a beautiful day. It's an historic day."

Sens. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, and Max Baucus, D-Mont., wore cowboy hats in keeping with the day's Texas flavor. Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan sported a New York Yankees cap.

Rep. Lincoln Diaz, D-Tenn., wore a coonskin cap that

stirred memories of the one worn by Ward Crockett, a Tennessee congressman in the 1800s.

Davis said Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai gave him his hat when he visited that country. Davis said he'd send the coonskin cap to Karzai as a gift.

"I can tell him I wore it at our country's president's inauguration," Davis said.

Kerry, on the inauguration that wasn't

C-SPAN's microphones were on as dignitaries arrived for the swearing-in. They picked up snippets of Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., describing the scarves people wore on their chins.

Kerry would have been delivering his own inaugural address on Thursday, but voters on Election Day had other ideas. Asked what it was like to attend the ceremony under the circumstances, Kerry turned his palms upward and said, "Fine."

Protesters demand attention

Along the parade route, a group of protesters voiced their opinions on topics ranging from the president to the presidential trivia read by an announcer over a loudspeaker.

As the announcer recounted minutiae about past presidents, the protesters bellowed the names of those they didn't like, including Ronald Reagan. Then they shouted, "No more Bush! No more Bush!"

Growing restless by the parade's delay, they began chanting, "No more trivial! No more trivial! It is boring! It is boring!"

From the Associated Press

Northeast on lookout for 6 terror suspects

BY DENISE LAVOIE

The Associated Press

BOSTON — The FBI continued to investigate a tip Thursday that six potential terror suspects may be planning an attack against Boston, and there were visible signs of increased security across the city.

But officials sought to assure the public that there is no confirmed threat, and residents appeared to take it all in stride.

Authorities were searching across the Northeast on Thursday for four Chinese nationals and two Iraqis described by the FBI as possible terror suspects who may be heading for Boston.

The day before, federal law enforcement officials released the names and photographs of four Chinese nationals — two men and two women — they said they were seeking for questioning, but did not provide any details about the two Iraqis.

U.S. Attorney Michael Sullivan said Thursday that authorities had been able to learn more background on the four Chinese nationals, but "it makes us no more alarmed this morning, this afternoon, than we were yesterday."

"They're not wanted at this point in time for any crimes because there's no evidence at this point in time that they've committed any crimes," Sullivan said.

"We're not certain exactly where they are. We can't even say for certain that they're in the country."

Law enforcement has no specific information, not even the names of the two Iraqis, Sullivan said, shortly after briefing Gov. Mitt Romney about the matter.

Sullivan denied reports that authorities had intercepted cell phone calls that confirmed the four Chinese nationals had the information the original tip.

"There is no cell phone chatter at all," Sullivan said. "There is no



Xiu Jin Chen

Wen Quin Zheng

Guozhi Lin

Zengrong Lin

information that would support that."

Across the city, there were visible signs of stepped-up security, including some underground parking garages searching vehicles as they entered and pictures of the Chinese nationals posted inside the booths where subway tokens are sold by transit employees.

Patrice Diaz-Migoyo, a graduate student at MIT, said reports

about the potential terrorist threat brought back memories of Sept. 11, 2001.

"My first reaction, because I lived in Greenwich Village on Sept. 11, was annoyance if I happened to be in the two cities that got struck," he said, while he was standing inside a downtown shopping mall.

Diaz-Migoyo said he feels it's hard the general public to know how to assess threats because of

past government intelligence failures and secrecy.

Romney, who skipped President Bush's inauguration to return to the state Wednesday night after learning of the threat, sought to reassure residents that there was nothing to be alarmed about.

A federal law enforcement official, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the ongoing investigation, said the uncorroborated tip was received recently by the California Highway Patrol.

Rice promises 'healthy debate'

BY BARRY SCHWEID

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Trying to make their mark, President Bush's strategy in Iraq, Senate Democrats extracted a promise from Condoleezza Rice to level with them when she takes over as secretary of state.

And Rice seems agreeable, to a point.

"We can certainly have, I think, a healthy debate about the course that we should take going forward," she said Wednesday in response to Democrats who criticized Bush's rationale for overthrowing Saddam Hussein and his handling of a postwar invasion that is taking a growing toll of American soldiers in Iraq.

"I will be candid," Rice promised. "My assessments may not always be ones that you want to hear. They may not always be the

ones with which you agree. But I will tell you what I think."

And that, she said, "is a promise that I make to you today."

Rice coupled the promise with an admission that some Bush administration decisions in Iraq were bad ones, but she did not elaborate or give ground on the principal elements of the administration's policy there.

Critics on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, only two of whom — Democrats John Kerry of Massachusetts and Barbara Boxer of California — voted against her confirmation, clearly were hoping that Rice would act as a check on Bush.

Her criticism is likely to carry over to next week, when Democrats will speak on the nomination on the Senate floor to next day, with a vote likely the next day.

Initially, Rice had looked for-



Condoleezza Rice

ward to confirmation Thursday a few hours after President Bush took the oath of office for a second term.

White House chief of staff Andrew Card said Thursday the Democrats' decision to delay her confirmation smacked of "petty politics."

"She certainly is qualified and ready to be the secretary of state," he said on CBS' "The Early Show."

The Democrats' motivation in seeking exchanges with Rice is apparent. They hope that by engaging Rice in a debate on some kind, they might be able to influence policy.

San Francisco considers gun ban to fight murders

BY KIM CURTIS

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Frustrated by an increase in homicides, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors has proposed a sweeping ban on handguns, injecting this liberal city into the national debate over gun control.

The proposal would bar residents from keeping handguns in their homes or businesses and prohibit the sale, manufacture and distribution of any firearms or ammunition in San Francisco.

Only two other major U.S. cities — Washington and Chicago — have implemented handgun bans, and both were quickly challenged in the courts. The national gun lobby already has vowed to challenge San Francisco's ban if voters approve it.

San Francisco has tried before to ban handguns. In 1982, a city ordinance was overturned because it applied to anyone who entered the city. A state court ruled that such actions were reserved for the state Legislature.

The supervisor who proposed the most recent ban, Chris Daly, said he and his counterparts already have received threatening calls and e-mails from gun supporters.

"Up to this point, I don't think anyone has come up with anything that's working," Daly said. "This is my contribution to trying to figure out a way to turn back the tide of violence."

San Francisco had 88 murders in 2004, up from 69 in 2003.

Sixty-three of last year's homicides involved a firearm, police Sgt. Neville Gittens said.

While last year's number of homicides is an increase from the previous year, it's comparable to other U.S. cities of similar size — roughly 750,000 residents.

Chuck Michel, a Los Angeles lawyer who represents the National Rifle Association and the California Rifle and Pistol Association, said San Francisco's plan is ill-conceived and misplaced. "It's turning firearms into a scapegoat for failed city policies," Michel said.

Police wannabes go on crime spree across U.S.

BY FRANK ELMAN

The Associated Press

MINEOLA, N.Y. — As James Gottlieb drove home from his job as a bus manager, he saw flashing lights in his mirror and heard a siren. The father of three pulled over, and a man in military-style garb stepped out of the trailing vehicle.

Despite the lights and the clothes, the man was not police officer, police said. The 49-year-old Gottlieb was shot twice and left to die on a Long Island street.

While the slaying Jan. 5 was extraordinary, the practice of criminals posing as

cops is disturbingly common in the United States.

It is hardly a new phenomenon — Cary Chessman was executed in California in 1960 as the "Red Light Bandit" who robbed or raped women after pulling up in a car with what looked like a police light — but it remains a perilous proposition for both the public and officers on patrol.

"From time immemorial there have been cop wannabes," said Robert McCrie, a professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. "But when someone uses the color of law enforcement to commit a crime, that is harmful to society."

Over the past six weeks or so, authorities say, men have posed as police officers in North Andover, Mass.; Parma, Ohio; Scranton, Pa.; Leesville, La.; and Prince William County, Va. In some cases, the impersonators robbed or raped their victims.

In the New York area, only days after Gottlieb's slaying, police arrested two men who allegedly impersonated cops while robbing two businessmen during a traffic stop. The robbery was interrupted by a legitimate officer — already on alert because of the killing — who became suspicious when he did not recognize the phony cops.

Police said those suspects were not con-

nected with the killing of Gottlieb, who may have been targeted for his bank office key.

Long Island University terrorism expert Harvey Kushner said impersonators erode the trust between the public and police officers and make traffic stops more dangerous for drivers and cops alike. The FBI does not collect data on police impersonation cases, and experts say they cannot say for sure whether the phenomenon is increasing. But several police officials said the prevalence of "bait stores" and the availability of police equipment on the Internet make it easier to masquerade as lawmen.

Fa., La. courts rule against gays

BY VICKIE CHACHERE

The Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — After 27 years together, the Rev. Nancy Wilson and Paula Schoenewetter got married last summer in Massachusetts, along with thousands of other same-sex couples who wanted their unions legalized.

Massachusetts is the only state that allows gay marriage, but Wilson and Schoenewetter want their home state of Florida to recognize their union, too. Their attempt to get that recognition, though, was soundly rejected Wednesday when a judge dismissed their lawsuit, upholding a federal law that lets states ban same-sex marriages.

The ruling was described by legal experts as the first of its kind.

"This is a legal shot heard 'round the world," said attorney Ellis Rubin, who filed the lawsuit on the women's behalf. "But we are not giving up... This case is going to be resolved in the U.S. Supreme Court, and I have said that since the day I filed it."

Also Wednesday, the Louisiana

Supreme Court unanimously reinstated an anti-gay marriage amendment to the state constitution that was overwhelmingly approved by voters in September.

The rulings are the latest in a national debate on the legality and morality of same-sex marriage that has been raging since Massachusetts became the first state to legalize the unions in 2003.

Opponents are bolstered by last year's elections, when 11 states pushed through constitutional amendments banning gay marriage. And President Bush has promised to make a federal anti-gay marriage amendment a priority of his second term.

Although several federal cases are challenging the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act, attorneys said the ruling in Florida was the first by a federal judge on a direct challenge to the law.

U.S. District Judge James S. Moody sided with Attorney General John Ashcroft, who argued in court filings that the government has a legitimate interest in allowing states to ban same-sex mar-



Attorney Ellis Rubin speaks to reporters in Tampa, Fla., in July concerning his clients, the Rev. Nancy Wilson, center, and Paula Schoenewetter, both from Bradenton, Fla. On Wednesday, a Florida judge upheld the federal law letting states ban same-sex marriages, dismissing a lawsuit by the two women seeking to force the state to recognize their Massachusetts marriage.

riages, namely to encourage "stable relationships" for the rearing of children by both biological parents.

The Justice Department did not immediately comment on the ruling.

Wilson, a minister for Metropolitan Community Churches, one of the world's largest congregations of gay Christians, said in a statement that she was prepared to take her challenge to the Supreme Court.

"Despite this ruling, we are still married in our hearts, and legally married in Massachusetts," she said. Her partner added: "No civil

rights movement was lost on one bad court decision."

The women argued the Defense of Marriage Act was unconstitutional because it was discriminatory on the basis of sex and violated their fundamental rights. Moody said he could not declare marriage a "fundamental right," as the lawsuit urged him to do, and that he was bound to follow legal precedent.

The legislatures of individual states may decide to overturn its precedent and strike down "the law," Moody wrote. "But, until then, this court is constrained to hold [the law] and the Florida statutes... constitutionally valid."

Airplane water unsafe?

WASHINGTON — Asking for bottled water or a canned drink aboard an airliner might be the safest way to fly.

Coliform bacteria are showing up in the water systems of more airlines than last summer, when the government first took steps toward requiring sanitation improvements.

The Environmental Protection Agency will now have to do domestic airlines test themselves and submit results to the agency to see if the trend continues. Some self-sampling has begun, and airlines are adapting to routine inspections to meet EPA guidance.

Airlines now must disinfect water systems every three months and water carts and hoses leading to aircraft moieties.

Coliform bacteria, usually harmless, indicate that harmful organisms could be present. EPA said Wednesday it found coliform bacteria in 17 percent of the airlines it randomly tested in November and December.

Among 169 randomly tested airlines, most of the 29 that tested positive for coliform bacteria had them in lavatory faucets, but some also had them in galley water taps. There were no cases of the more serious *E. coli* bacteria, which can cause diarrhea and nausea, an improvement from two cases found in previous testing.

From The Associated Press

Cancer top killer of Americans under 85

The Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Cancer has taken over from heart disease as the top killer in the United States of people 85 and younger.

The reason is that deaths from both diseases are falling, but heart disease mortality has declined more.

"It's dropping fast enough that another disease is eclipsing it," said Dr. Walter Tsou, president of the American Public Health Association. "It's good news in some ways and bad in others," because too many people still smoke and are overweight, ensuring that both diseases will continue to cause deaths that could be prevented, said Dr. Teri Manly, director of epidemiology for the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute.

The news is included in the American Cancer Society's annual statistical report, released Wednesday. In 2002, the most recent year for which information is available, 476,009 Americans younger than 85 died of cancer; 450,637 died of heart disease.

"This is a situation in which neither one of us wants to be No. 1" because far more deaths could be prevented, said Dr. Rose Marie Robertson, chief scientist of the American Heart Association.

A third of all cancers are related to smoking, and another third are related to obesity, poor diets and lack of exercise — all factors that also contribute to heart disease.

"We want to send the message: Don't smoke, eat right, exercise and maintain normal weight, and see your doctor for normal checkups," said Dr. Harmon Eyre, the cancer society's chief medical officer.

Cancer death rates have declined about 1 percent per year since 1999. The reduction in deaths from colon cancer and from lung cancer in men are particularly striking.

Heart disease sufferers have benefited from better surgical techniques and devices and from better drugs to treat heart problems and control factors such as high blood pressure, Eyre said.

Study: Daily drink may keep brain sharp

BY ROB STEIN

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Women who imbibe a little wine, beer or spirits every day are less likely than teetotalers to see their memories and other thinking powers fade as they age, according to the largest study to assess alcohol's impact on the brain.

The study of more than 12,000 elderly women found that those who consumed light to moderate amounts of alcohol daily had about a 20 percent lower risk of experiencing problems with their mental abilities later in life.

"Low levels of alcohol appear to have cognitive benefits," said Fran-

cine Grodstein of the Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, senior author on the study, which is being published in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine. "Women who currently were drinking about one-half to one drink per day had both less cognitive impairment as well as less decline in their cognitive function compared to women who didn't drink at all."

While the study involved only women, the findings probably hold true for men, although previous research indicates that men seem to benefit from drinking slightly more — one to two drinks per day, researchers said.

The findings provide the latest

evidence that indulging in alcohol, long vilified as part of an insalubrious lifestyle, can actually help people live longer, healthier lives. While heavy drinking clearly causes serious problems for many people, recent research has found that drinking in moderation protects the heart. A few small studies have similarly suggested that alcohol may help the brain. The new study is by far the largest and most detailed to examine that question.

Researchers analyzed data about 12,480 women ages 70 to 81 participating in the Nurses Health Study, in which detailed information is being gathered about thousands of nurses as they age to assess how myriad lifestyle factors affect health.

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IN THE WORLD

U.S. military scales back tsunami effort

The Associated Press

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia — International aid organizations acknowledged Thursday they will need to take over the bulk of the tsunami relief efforts as the U.S. military begins a gradual withdrawal from operations to help feed and house more than a million refugees.

Adm. Thomas Fargo, commander in chief of the U.S. Pacific Command, said at a news conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, that the U.S. military "will start right now transferring functions to the appropriate host nations and international organizations."

Various aid organizations responded to the announcement by pledging to shoulder

a greater share of the burden to aid survivors of the killer waves that swept Asian and African coastlines on Dec. 26. High-end figures put the number of dead at more than 220,000 — though numbers vary widely.

U.S. warships and helicopters "played a crucial role ... they're still playing that role," said Rob Holden, who heads a health assessment team made up of experts from the United Nations, Indonesian government, U.S. military and nongovernmental agencies.

"What we're trying to do ... is civilianize the humanitarian operations because we're aware that we won't have military assets forever."

About 15,000 American troops have been deployed to tsunami-hit nations.

The fragile situation in Aceh — where government forces and separatist rebels have fought for nearly three decades — threatened to complicate delivery of the relief.

In the hills near Aceh's capital, Banda Aceh, there was a barrage of automatic gunfire, prompting tsunami survivors living in a temporary camp to run for cover. It was unclear who fired the shots, but a local military commander acknowledged an operation was under way in the area to counter rebel activity.

No one was hurt and the shooting did not appear to target the refugees, but it underscored the danger of renewed fighting in the region, where the warring sides have

called a temporary cease-fire aimed at facilitating the humanitarian effort.

In a separate incident Thursday, an Indonesian soldier in Aceh fired his weapon into the air, narrowly missing the rotor blades of a U.S. helicopter delivering aid, witnesses said. Nobody was wounded in the incident — apparently part of crowd control measures as about 25 refugees lunged for relief supplies.

At a U.N. conference in Kobe, Japan, participating nations discussed plans for a network and warning system that would detect tsunamis in the Indian Ocean and warn coastal residents of the danger.

On the third day of the five-day meeting, delegates gave the go-ahead to start examining various proposals.

Iran: U.S. too busy in Iraq to attack here

BY ALI AKBAR DAREINI

The Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — President Mohammad Khatami said Thursday that the United States has too many problems in Iraq to attack Iran, but that his country has plans in place should Washington make any aggressive moves.

Khatami's remarks, made in an interview with Iran's state-run radio while the president was wrapping up a 10-day, seven-nation tour of Africa, marked the

most senior response to recent reports indicating the United States may be considering military action against Iran. Khatami was expected to return from Uganda on Thursday.

"The possibility of a U.S. attack against Iran is very low. We think America is not in a position to take a lunatic action of attacking Iran," Khatami said.

"The U.S. is deeply engaged in Iraq. We move forward with full vigilance. But we don't welcome any tension but if, God forbid, it com-

mits an act of aggression, we have prepared ourselves. We have plans for it."

He did not elaborate on how Iran would respond or defend itself.

On Monday, President Bush said on NBC's "Today" show that his administration won't rule out the possibility of using military force against Iran over its controversial nuclear program. "I hope we can solve it diplomatically but I will never take any option off the table," he said.

S. Korean rescue

SEOUL — North Korea on Thursday allowed a South Korean police ship to enter its waters on a rescue mission for 14 missing crewmen after a cargo vessel sank. It was the first time the North has given such permission.

The Pioneer was sailing from Vladivostok in the Russian Far East to a Chinese port when it sank in international waters off North Korea's eastern coast.

Four of the ship's 18 crewmen were rescued.

Afghan suicide attack

KABUL, Afghanistan — A suicide bomber blew himself up Thursday near an Afghan warlord, who helped the United States defeat the Taliban, injuring more than 20 people but failing to harm the apparent target, officials said.

A spokesman for the hardline militia said it carried out the attack on Abdul Rashid Dostum to avenge the killing of Taliban prisoners. Police said the attack carried the hallmark of al-Qaida.

From The Associated Press

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INAUGURATION



AP photos

Above: Former President George H.W. Bush, right, looks up with his wife, Barbara, and granddaughters Barbara, back left, and Jenna as they walk through the Rotunda in the Capitol in Washington on Thursday. Right: President Bush walks through the Rotunda on his way to the podium at the inauguration ceremony.



Thousands listen Thursday as President Bush delivers his inaugural address after being sworn in at the Capitol for his second term.



President Bush delivers his inaugural address at the Capitol.



Clockwise from above: President Bush's daughters Barbara, left, and Jenna look on as their father kisses first lady Laura Bush on Capitol Hill. Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney wave to the crowd on Capitol Hill. Former Vice President Dan Quayle talks with Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., at the Capitol before the inaugural address.





Members of the "Old Guard," the Commander in Chief's Guard 3rd U.S. Infantry march down Pennsylvania Avenue during the inaugural parade.

MORGAN LOOSLI/Stars & Stripes

Pomp, protests garnish parade route

Floats, marching bands and military color path along Pennsylvania Ave.

BY LEO SHANE III

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Thursday's inaugural parade was a mixture of pomp and precaution, with protesters confined to small sections of the parade route and armed guards surrounding even the supporters.

But the security detail did not stop President Bush and the first lady from exiting their motorcade before the parade's end, to the delight of the gathered crowd. Flanked by Secret Service guards, the president waved, thanked his supporters and blew kisses during his brief stroll.

Floats and performers from 46 states were represented in the procession.

The parade had 14 giant floats, more than 70 marching bands and marching units, and thousands of dignitaries and representatives from every state. Sens. Max Baucus, D-Mont., and Conrad Burns, R-Mont., traveled the route on horseback. The military estimated about 10,000 participants were in the parade.

Military honorees included cadets from the Virginia Military Institute, a precision drill team from The Citadel in South Carolina and Purple Heart veterans from Maryland.

Petty Officer 1st Class John Caudle, 43, a chaplain's assistant at the National Naval Medical Center in nearby Bethesda, Md., navigated the city's partially closed subway system with his wife, Lori, to watch the festivities.

"He's our commander in chief, and I'm proud to serve under him," he said.

Bush launched the parade with a review of troops lined up near the steps of the Capitol.

Among the first crowds to greet the procession were protesters, who held up signs with insults such as "Worst president ever" and "America is disgraced."

Bush's motorcade sped up as it passed a designated area for protesters.

For more inauguration photos and stories, visit www.stripes.com

Police used pepper spray to break up one group's attempt to disrupt the parade, and escorted other potential troublemakers out of the area. And pro-Bush partiers tried to drown out the protest chants as the motorcade passed by, while rows of security officials looked on.

Lines at the checkpoints for designated protest areas moved slowly throughout the day, as hundreds waited their turn to go through metal detectors.

Stern-faced soldiers in camouflage were standing outside a tent at a checkpoint where all spectators were patted down, with men in one line and women in another. A German shepherd was there to sniff cameras and bags.

Large banners were prohibited near the parade route, as were bottles or other containers that could be used as projectiles.

One of the protesters waiting in line, Juan Carlos Reyes, a former avionics technician in the U.S. Air Force, began shouting as his frustration mounted.

"What kind of coward do you support?" Reyes shouted, then led many in the group with the chant, "Let us in! Let us in!"

Further up the parade route, supporters with tickets found it easier getting to their bleacher seats, which lined much of the president's 1.7-mile path.

Organizers said about 40,000 paid between \$15 and \$125 for those seats, but about 60,000 more were expected to cheer or jeer the president along the route.

E-mail Leo Shane at: shane@stripes.com. Editor Patrick Dickson and The Associated Press contributed to this article.



AP

Above right: President Bush and first lady Laura Bush wave during President Bush's inaugural parade on Thursday in Washington.

Above left: An unidentified protester, with signs tucked under his arm, yells near the inaugural parade. Below: The presidential and vice presidential limousines accompanied by heavy security, make their way along Pennsylvania Avenue toward the White House.



MORGAN LOOSLI/Stars and Stripes

Free respite child care offered to troops

Program benefits reservists, Guard on leave from war zones

By LISA BURGESS
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — When a New Jersey Air National Guard member needed someone to take care of his newborn daughter one morning last May while the child's mother was at a doctor's appointment, Judy Novak stepped up to the plate — for free.

Novak, a licensed child care provider who lives in Toms River, N.J., was helping the reservist as part of Operation Child Care, a nationwide program to offer members of the reserve and National Guard components some respite from child care while they are home from Iraq or Afghanistan on R&R (rest and relaxation) or emergency leave.

The National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies in Washington, D.C., launched Operation Child Care in May.

The organization, which is a national network of more than 850 child care resource and referral centers located in every state, is partnering in the program with the National Association of Fam-

ily Child Care, the National Child Care Association, the National Cooperative Extension System, the National 4-H Program, and the Child Care Bureau, which falls under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Operation Child Care has 6,000 volunteers standing ready to participate, according to DeVere Kutscher, a spokesman for the NAC-CRRA.

Bright Horizons Family Solutions and KinderCare Learning Centers — chain operations that include thousands of their child care centers across the country — also are participating.

Volunteers must commit to a minimum of four hours of free care, with the maximum "depending on the generosity of the (individual) provider," Kutscher said in a Wednesday telephone interview.

"Some volunteers have offered up to 70 hours" of their time to the program, he said.

The volunteers must be certified and licensed by their residential states — a process that depends on each state's rules.

How to use Operation Child Care

Here's information on how to use Operation Child Care:

■ **Who is eligible?** Any military reservist who is coming home to the United States for R&R (rest and recuperation) or emergency leave. You will need to show your orders to your provider.

■ **Whom do I contact?** Call the Operation Child Care hot line at (800) 424-2246, or go to www.childcareaware.org/en/operationchildcare/request. html and fill out the request form. More information on the program can also be found at www.childcareaware.org/en/operationchildcare.

■ **Then what happens?** The local Child Care Resource and Referral Agency in their home area will contact eligible reservists. Some child care agencies will help make the connection between volunteers and users of the program; others will offer a list of phone numbers and addresses of the volunteer providers in their area. Users will also get a list of questions to ask potential child care volunteers.

■ **How do I know these child care volunteers**

are qualified? Only legally operating, licensed, certified child care providers may volunteer for the program. Each state has its own requirements for licensing.

■ **How much time will I get?** Volunteers must offer a minimum of four hours, but there is no maximum. Reservists should discuss this when they contact their chosen volunteer provider to set up the child care appointment.

■ **What should I ask potential providers?** Ask for references and contact information of parents of children that they currently or previously cared for; whether your child will be participating in planned activities while in care; and what your preferences are (e.g., no television, etc.). You should also ask if food will be provided for your child, or if you will need to provide the food if there will be outside activities.

For a full list of issues to consider before you call, go to www.childcareaware.org/en/operationchildcare. Reservists will also be offered suggestions when they contact the Operation Child Care hot line.

But beyond those requirements, Operation Child Care's sponsors are trying "to leave [the program] as open as possible, and not put too many restrictions on it," Kutscher said. "We want to encourage people to use the program."

Because Operation Child Care is so localized, the national association has yet to gather data on

how many reservists have used it, Kutscher said.

Anecdotal, however, "we've seen some really nice stories" coming from different states, such as Novak's experience, he said.

Novak said she heard about Operation Child Care when her Ocean County, N.J., Children's Home Society contacted her by mail, asking for volunteers.

Although she already spent more than her required four hours caring for the reservist's newborn, Novak said in a Wednesday telephone interview she's ready and waiting to do it again.

"Sometimes if you feel you can do a little something in a circumstance like that, you want to do it," she said.

E-mail Lisa Burgess at: burgessl@stripes.osd.mil

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AFN restoring Pacific service base by base

BY GREG TYLER

Stars and Stripes

The full scale of American Forces Network television programming resumed at work bases in Japan on Thursday afternoon, according to an AFN Pacific official in Tokyo.

On Jan. 15, the INTELSTAR804 satellite over the Pacific Ocean used by AFN suffered a "major electrical failure onboard," according to AFN officials.

Many viewers in Japan had limited, three-channel AFN television service again Monday, thanks to AFN's Direct-to-Sailor satellite system and equipment, and technical assistance from American bases at several Navy installations.

As of Thursday afternoon, Yokota Air Base and Misawa Air Base had full service, restored, said Keith Lebling, detachment chief at AFN Pacific in Tokyo.

The Sasebo Naval Base AFN detachment and AFN on Okinawa still were conducting tests Thursday, and Lebling said it was probable that full service would resume in those places Friday.

Iwakuni Marine Corps Air Station, Lebling said, will require some additional equipment, but may resume the full scale of programming "in the next couple of days."

Other Pacific locations are to continue with the limited DTS programming until the end of the month, when new satellite configurations are completed.

"The reason some bases have all the pro-

gramming back, or will have it back Friday, is because they are full-service detachments' who have large satellite dishes that can be turned and tweaked to catch the new satellite configurations designated by AFNRTS (American Forces Radio and Television Service)," Lebling said.

The satellite failure affected all of mainland Japan, Okinawa, South Korea and other Pacific installations from Diego Garcia to Alaska, Lebling said shortly after the satellite failed.

Viewers at facilities still receiving the limited DTS programming can access an alternate broadcast schedule at: <http://myafn.dodmedia.osd.mil/tv/assets/Dts15Jan.xls>

Lebling expressed gratitude to American-Japanese personnel for the assistance they provided immediately following the satellite malfunction in establishing the limited three-channel DTS lineup.

"We were able to help with some spare satellite dishes we had and other necessary equipment," said James Smith, an American-Japanese official. "America made the determination to use our own spare equipment to restore the AFN DTS signal" at Navy installations including Yokosuka Naval Base, Negishi, Iikego and Atsugi Naval Air Facility.

"They were just great and really stepped up. They gave us extra bandwidth and made extra dishes available. They reacted very quickly and generously," Lebling said.

E-mail Greg Tyler at: tylberg@strips.osd.mil

New policy gives spouses more employment options

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN

Stars and Stripes

MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan — Civilian personnel officials are trying to spread the word about a Defense Department policy change that gives military spouses at overseas and stateside bases more job opportunities.

Misawa Air Base's civilian personnel officials recently announced that military spouses no longer will be penalized for accepting temporary, time-limited jobs.

In the past, military spouses who accepted a non-permanent position lasting for more than one year would lose their military spouse preference until their next permanent change of station. This could include, for example, a military spouse filling in for a staffer on maternity leave or working flexible hours at a child development center or base club.

"This is trying to help military spouses have a better chance to get into (permanent) federal positions," said Edith Presbitero, human resources assistant for

35th Mission Support Squadron civilian personnel flight.

Margo Smiley, human resources specialist with the civilian personnel flight, said base organizations also benefit because, before the policy change, "spouses may have been reluctant to take temporary positions."

The new policy went into effect Oct. 7, but Presbitero said the word has been slow to trickle down to bases.

The change is based on a two-year trial program in Europe called MSP Choice that ended more than a year ago. U.S. European Command's final report found military spouses and DOD employing organizations in the European theater gave the program high marks, according to a DOD memorandum.

"In particular, a majority of military spouses stated that MSP Choice increased their employment opportunities for positions in the Federal service," the report stated.

Military spouse preference

gives military spouses a leg up when applying for appropriated and nonappropriated-fund government jobs. As long as a military spouse is qualified, he or she would be hired over other civilian applicants. Military spouses can exercise this preference one time at each base after a permanent change of station move.

Under the new program, military spouses can use their spouse preference to accept or decline temporary positions until they get a permanent job, also known as a "continuing position." Spouses now can work in these temporary, or non-continuing positions, and then use their hiring preference to get a new job 60 days before the temporary job expires. Non-continuing positions, as defined by the new program, are those with a time limitation or a flexible work schedule. They include permanent positions with an intermittent work schedule, such as a substitute teacher with Department of Defense Dependents Schools.

"Now you can apply for a permanent position while working a temporary position," Smiley said. This means that military spouses won't have to stay unemployed while waiting to apply for a permanent position. Government service jobs at Misawa are very limited, Presbitero said, noting the civilian personnel office receives on average between eight and 10 applications for a GS-level position. "For the past couple of weeks, we've had no vacancies," she said.

Also under the new program, military spouses who lost preference on or after Oct. 7 because they accepted or declined a time-limited position in the federal service, including a nonappropriated-fund position, can have preference reinstated, according to the DOD memo.

Military spouses who previously accepted or declined a permanent position would not have their preference reinstated.

Jessica Inigo contributed to this story.

E-mail Jennifer H. Svan at: svan@strips.osd.mil

Salute to the boss



JOHN E. WOODS/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Cmdr. Chris Bolt salutes Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron 115 sailors upon arriving at a change-of-command ceremony Thursday at Atsugi Naval Air Facility, Japan. Bolt relieved Cmdr. Richard W. Weathers as the squadron's commanding officer.

Sailor found dead

A sailor was found dead in his barracks Wednesday at Guam Naval Base.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Matthew David Brandt, 22, of Nashville, Tenn., was found not breathing at 10 a.m. by base security forces, who were summoned after Brandt failed to report for duty. They attempted CPR before taking him to the hospital, where he was pronounced dead, according to a Navy spokeswoman.

The cause of death is still under investigation by the hospital medical examiner.

A memorial service was scheduled for Friday at Naval Base Guam.

Boy's body found

Navy helicopter crews recovered a 14-year-old boy's body after a 15-hour search Thursday.

Three crews from the Guam-based Helicopter Combat Support Squadron began searching for the boy in waters off Talofofo at 10:30 p.m. Wednesday and continued until the body was recovered at 1:30 p.m., according to a Navy press release.

The search crew that recovered the body included Lt. James Raymond, co-pilot Lt. Mike Fisher, rescue swimmer Petty Officer 3rd Class Brad Hertzog and

Corspsman Petty Officer 1st Class Seth Von Borstel.

Sub officer reassigned

Cmdr. Kevin Mooney, commanding officer of the USS San Francisco, was administratively reassigned Thursday by U.S. Seventh Fleet commander Vice Adm. Jonathan W. Greenert pending the results of an investigation into a submarine's recent grounding, which resulted in the death of a crewmember.

Mooney was in command of the Los Angeles-class nuclear-powered sub on Jan. 8 when it ran aground about 350 miles south of Guam, according to Navy officials. Twenty-three sailors were injured, including Petty Officer 2nd Class Joseph Allen Ashley, 24, who died Jan. 9 from injuries sustained in the incident. The fast-attack submarine apparently struck an uncharted underwater mound; however, the accident remains under investigation. Mooney was reassigned to Submarine Squadron 15, based on Guam, pending the results.

"This is an administrative action, and in no way should be interpreted as punishment based upon any sort of conclusions in the investigation," said Cmdr. Ike Skelton, Seventh Fleet spokesman.

From staff reports

Yokota Baptist Church

Pastor Warren Webster

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Tuesday
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Wednesday
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Fussa Gate

Term Gate

U.S. troops launch more sweeps in Mosul

By JASON KEYSER
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — U.S. troops launched fresh raids Thursday around the northern city of Mosul to rein in guerrillas who have threatened to disrupt the upcoming election.

Iraqi forces sealed off main routes into Baghdad one day after a wave of car bombings rocked the capital.

An Islamic Web site linked to an Iraqi militant group claimed that a Briton and a Swede were kidnapped in the northern town of Beiji and killed after they were found to be intelligence agents. British and Swedish officials were checking the claims.

Also, a Brazilian who disappeared during an ambush Wednesday in Beiji probably was kidnapped, according to his company, the Sao-Paulo-based Construtora Norberto Odebrecht SA, which is working on a power plant in the city.

Troops from the Army's Stryker Brigade Combat Team detained nine people and seized weapons in the overnight sweeps in Mosul, the military said.

U.S. forces have intensified nighttime operations in Iraq's third-largest city in a race to make it safe enough for voters to cast ballots in the Jan. 30 parliamentary and regional elections. In the past two weeks alone, U.S. and Iraqi forces have rounded up 200 suspected insurgents there, the U.S. military said.

A day after a string of car bombings in Baghdad, major highways leading into the capital from the south and west were sealed off by Iraqi forces.

Alaa Mahmoud, an Iraqi National Guard captain at one roadblock, said he was under orders to prevent all vehicle traffic from entering the city. Government officials could not be reached for comment because offices were closed at the start of a four-day Muslim holiday.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Wednesday, at least 1,368 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,073 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said.

The figures include three military civilians. The AP count is four higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. Wednesday.

The British military has reported 76 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 16; Ukraine, 16; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Latvia and Kazakhstan one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,230 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 964 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ No deaths reported.

The latest identifications reported by military:

■ Army Pfc. George R. Geer, 27, Cortez, Colo., and Army Staff Sgt. Thomas E. Vitagliano, 33, New Haven, Conn., killed Monday when a vehicle-borne explosive detonated in Ramadi, Iraq; assigned to the 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, Camp Casey, South Korea.

A surge in car bombings and street clashes in the city has followed November's U.S. offensive in the former insurgent hub of Fallujah, and U.S. commanders believe many rebel fighters who fled that siege have set up new operations in Mosul and other cities.

In the latest fighting, insurgents shelled a hospital in Mosul where U.S. and Iraqi forces had taken up positions in an annex wing, hospital director Faris Hani said. Doctors and patients fled, but no casualties were reported.

American soldiers on patrol Wednesday in Mosul killed three insurgents who fired on them from a car, the military said.

The claim that the Swede and Briton were abducted and killed could not be verified. The statement, issued by Ansar al-Sunnah, a known militant group in Iraq, was found on a Web site used as a clearinghouse for the group's claims and extremist material.

"We in Ansar al-Sunnah managed, thanks be to God, to get the heads of the enemy crusader infidels and those cooperating with them," the claim said.

"The lions of faith managed to set a tight trap and kidnap two agents: one British and one Swedish. The two agents are working for intelligence apparatuses of the United States and Iraq, and we executed God's punishment by killing them," it said.

The Brazilian, who was not identified, disappeared after insurgents ambushed his car on a highway Wednesday, killing a British contract security worker and an Iraqi guard, Iraqi police Lt. Shalan Alawi said.

Iraqi police earlier had said the missing foreigner was a Japanese engineer, but later said he was from Brazil. The two men in the ambush were employed by the British-based Janus Security Risk Management, Ltd.



A Marine from the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit guards prisoners captured during an early morning raid in Jabella, Iraq, on Wednesday. The raid kicked off Operation Checkmate, a fresh offensive against the insurgency.

Families of Iraq war dead protest after police stop Pentagon entry

By LEO SHANE III
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Pentagon police on Wednesday turned away family members of troops killed in Iraq who wanted to confront Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld on the reasons for the war in Iraq.

The group of about 20 was stopped before entering Pentagon property by about a dozen officers, who told the protesters they did not have the proper permission to enter the building.

Organizers said they have been petitioning for the meeting for weeks, but department officials are ignoring their requests.

"The man who was too busy to personally sign the Killed in Action letters these families received is apparently too busy to acknowledge the request of the Gold Star families for this meeting," Nancy Lessin, co-founder of Military

Families Speak Out, told reporters gathered for the event.

Five Gold Star families — ones who have lost a son or daughter to fighting in Iraq — brought pictures and letters to the event to present to the secretary, and asked police to pass the items along to illustrate their loss and grief.

Cindy Sheehan, a California resident whose son Casey was killed during a mission in Sadr City last April, showed a photo of her son from the shelter with her arms as the group tried to convince police to let them by.

"I wanted them to see my son," she said, weeping. "I wanted them to see the consequences of his actions ... I have the feeling they feel he was a dispensable asset to them."

Sheehan flew to Washington on Wednesday for the event, and will take part in the group's inauguration protests on Thursday.

Department of Defense officials did not return calls seeking comment. Po-

lice who confronted the families offered numbers where protesters could obtain permits and set up formal interviews, but said security concerns prohibited allowing any of the group onto Pentagon grounds.

Lessin, whose son recently returned from his overseas service, said the goal of both protests is to show the war in Iraq is "a reckless military misadventure that never should have happened."

"Shame on Secretary Rumsfeld for not recognizing these families, and shame on those who sent our children to war based on lies," she said.

Families at the event said they also wanted Rumsfeld to explain why troops in many cases weren't properly trained or equipped for the fighting, and when the other troops will be brought home.

"We're here to try and bring the truth to the Pentagon," said Celeste Zappala, a Philadelphia resident whose son Sherwood was killed in Baghdad last April.

E-mail Leo Shane III at: shane@stripes.com



Cindy Sheehan clutches a photo of her deceased son, Casey, at Wednesday's protest. Casey died during an April mission in Sadr City. Families of several troops killed in action tried to confront Defense Department officials on Wednesday, but were barred by police from entering the Pentagon.



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FACES

Darth Tater strikes back

A spud on the dark side.
That's how toy maker Hasbro Inc. is promoting its latest Mr. Potato Head figure, Darth Tater.



Darth Tater

tato Head accessories such as eyes, mouth and nose.

The toy will retail for \$7.99.
"Star Wars: Episode III," starring Ewan McGregor, Hayden Christensen and Natalie Portman, will open in theaters nationwide on May 19.

Inspired in Alabama

Three celebrities from Alabama have agreed to serve as role models for students in career and technical education programs.



Jackson

The Alabama Board of Education passed resolutions last week commending actress Courtney Cox Arquette, former professional football and baseball star Bo Jackson and pop singer Lionel Richie for agreeing to be role models for career and technical education students.

All three celebrities attended public schools in Alabama.
Arquette, star of the former hit television show "Friends," attended Mountain Brook High School, while Jackson, a Heisman trophy winner at Auburn, attended McAdams High School, both in Jefferson County. Richie, former singer for The Commodores, attended Tuskegee Institute High School in Macon County.

All that jazz auction

A treasure trove of jazz memorabilia — including saxophones that belonged to Charlie Parker and John Coltrane, Dizzy Gillespie's trumpet and a gown that Peggy Lee wore when she sang "Fever" — will go on the auction block next month.

"It's the first truly major auction focusing on jazz," Arlan Eitinger, president of Guernsey's, which is holding the Feb. 20 auction, said Tuesday.

The auction will take place at the Time Warner Center in Manhattan, the new home of Jazz at Lincoln Center, and buyers can bid by telephone, through the online auction site eBay or in person.

Smells like a motorcycle

What would a fragrance inspired by the Discovery Channel's "American Chopper" smell like? Not like the gasoline or burned rubber you may smell at Orange County Choppers, where the show's father-and-son team build custom-made motorcycles for upward of \$100,000, according to Michael Malcom, a fragrance developer and marketer from Manitou Springs, Colo.

Malcom's product line, Full Throttle, smells like a mix of essences of anise, mint, black licorice, white pepper and hints of suede and cashmere.

He pitched the idea to agents of "American Chopper" stars Paul Teutul and his son, Paul Jr., after watching the program last January. Full Throttle is based on fragrances favored by Paul Jr.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

HEARING "WHITE NOISE"

Michael Keaton returns in new paranormal thriller

By TERRY ARMOUR
Chicago Tribune

Michael Keaton is seated in the lobby restaurant of Chicago's Peninsula Hotel, not far from a table of bantering elderly women.

"What would you do if you found out that one of these ladies sitting over there was carrying for the Colombian drug cartel?" the actor quips with his trademark leer as he gestures over his shoulder.

One of the women notices Keaton, pointing the actor out to the others at her table. But they appear to be having a hard time figuring out exactly who he is. This fact isn't lost on Keaton, who after a string of big-screen hits, including "Night Shift," "Mr. Mom," "Beetlejuice" and the first two "Batman" films, has kept a low profile in Hollywood since 1998's "Jack Frost."

"I didn't check out, exactly," Keaton said during a recent interview. "That sounds too weird." Was it a sabbatical? "Even that sounds too weird," the actor said as he took a sip of wine.

"I actually wish the story was more interesting but I'm ridiculously honest: I just needed a break."

The break is over for the 53-year-old Keaton, who stars in the new paranormal thriller "White Noise," about an architect who communicates with his dead wife through Electronic Voice Phenomenon (EVP). The movie is now playing in the States.

In the coming months, Keaton also stars in "Game 6," about a playwright who skips opening night to watch Game 6

of the 1986 World Series between the Boston Red Sox and New York Mets, and "Herbie: Fully Loaded," the latest adventure of the little white Volkswagen.

Q. Did you make a conscious effort in your career to mix up your roles? After a couple of successful comedies, you took a chance on the drama "Clean and Sober," which led to "Batman."

A. I really thought that was my job when I started doing this — to try different things. Also, I have a low — low, low, low — boredom threshold. I just thought, "I've got to keep myself interested; otherwise, I don't really care to do this."

Q. I guess that's why I don't work a lot. I kind of disappeared there for a minute.

A. Somebody said, "Man, you haven't done anything for a long time; we haven't heard from you in a while." The truth is, it's kind of consistent with me.

I don't want to call it unpredictability — that sounds too self-conscious to me. Like when people say, "You're kind of a renegade, aren't you?" Once you start saying, "I'm a renegade," then you're full of crap. If you

have to say you're a renegade, then you're not a renegade.

Q. So why did you disappear?
A. (Laughs) I guess I could say, "You know, man, I went to this cabin and found myself," but I didn't do anything like that. It's really quite simple: I had a European girlfriend. I love Europe. I spent time in Europe. I built a couple of houses. I ranched. I fished in South America. I just lived life.

Q. Did you need to get away from the business or did the roles stop coming your way?

A. The truth is that it was 70-30 — 70 percent of, "I don't want

to do that; I'm never doing that again; I'm too old to play that without looking stupid. I know other guys that can do that one better than I can; I've already done that." The other 30 percent was that I wanted a nice, juicy role and I didn't get offered it because some guy's movie made \$100 million. That's how it works. That guy is getting it before I am because the studio is saying, "I've got to make a profit." It's a business, dude. I know I'm not going to get certain things, but I'm totally cool with how I do things. Hell, I may disappear again.

Q. So you never became disenchanting with the movie business?

A. The [movie] industry is a strip mall and I figured that out a long time ago. The studio has to have an anchor store in the mall, like the Nordstrom's, and that's your "Spider-Man." Then there are the other stores, your independents. Movies are a corporate business. That's the reality and I live in that reality.

Q. It's been reported that you turned down about \$35 million to do a third "Batman" movie.

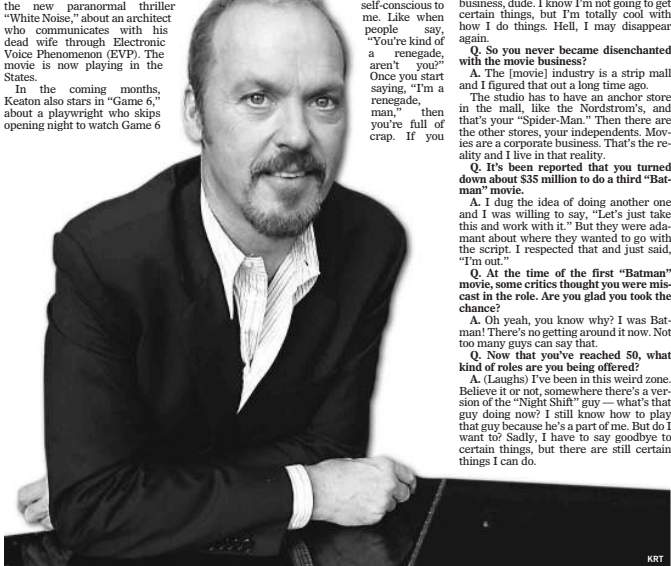
A. I dug the idea of doing another one and I was willing to say, "Let's just take this and work with it." But they were adamant about where they wanted to go with the script. I respected that and just said, "I'm out."

Q. At the time of the first "Batman" movie, some critics thought you were miscast in the role. Are you glad you took the chance?

A. Oh yeah, you know why? I was Batman! There's no getting around it now. Not too many guys can say that.

Q. Now that you've reached 50, what kind of roles are you being offered?

A. (Laughs) I've been in this weird zone. Believe it or not, somewhere there's a version of the "Night Shift" guy — what's that guy doing now? I still know how to play that guy because he's a part of me. But do I want to? Sadly, I have to say goodbye to certain things, but there are still certain things I can do.



Krispy Kreme: "hot" round bites of heaven

Fate of company and its delectable doughnut has gone both north, south

BY ALLEN G. BREED
The Associated Press

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. — Roy Blount Jr. knew something was wrong at his beloved Krispy Kreme long before the stock price began to plummet and the scent of corporate scandal filled the air.

When the North Carolina company opened its first doughnut shop in New York City, the Georgia-born humorist rushed right down to see how his favorite boyhood treat fared in that Northern clime.

Bathed in the red-neon glow of the familiar "Hot Doughnuts Now" sign, he ate five of the signature glazed in one sitting and couldn't wait to tell his fellow Gothamites of their good fortune.

"When Krispy Kremes are hot," he wrote in the Sept. 8, 1995 edition of the New York Times Magazine, "they are to other doughnuts what angels are to people."

Some time later, after Krispy Kreme had become the darling of Wall Street and the food fad du jour on HBO's "Sex and the City," Blount was strolling on Manhattan's East Side when the red the sign beckoned.

The guy behind the counter handed him a cold doughnut; Blount protested.

The server admitted his manager had told him to leave the sign on all the time.

"Something in my heart heard just a little bit," he wrote in a 63-year-old transcript sent to investors and analysts, Krispy Kreme's woes are a black spot on the portfolio. A federal securities probe, allegations of padded sales figures and last week's ouster of CEO Scott Livengood have tainted what had been a sweet American success story.

But to Southerners for whom a hot Krispy Kreme is part of a fond childhood memory of visits to Grandma and church get-togethers, the pain runs much deeper.

"It's the classic story of the country girl that comes to the city," Blount said. "You think anything that sweet couldn't get in trouble."

"But, of course, anything that sweet WILL get in trouble."

Tasteful temptation is baked

No lesser institution than the Smithsonian has declared Krispy Kreme a "Southern icon." But if the treats hadn't been so high in Peoria, Ill., we might be talking about that "Northern icon."

According to company legend, Vernon Carver Rudolph was looking for a place to open his own doughnut shop in the summer of 1937 when he landed in Peoria with \$25, a Pontiac loaded with frying and rolling equipment, and a secret potato flour-and-yeast-based recipe. He was stuck on a street corner when he pulled a pack of Camel cigarettes out of his pocket and noticed where they were manufactured.

"Why not Winston-Salem?" the Paducah,

Ky., native thought. "A town with a company producing a nationally advertised product has to be a good bet."

Rudolph used the last of his money to rent a tiny brick storefront across the street from Salem Academy and College. He had to borrow the money for his first batches of flour, eggs, potatoes and yeast.

By November, Rudolph was selling 1,000 dozen doughnuts a week at 25 cents a dozen. Things were going so well that he'd already obtained business licenses to sell in Charlotte, and had designs on Raleigh and Durham.

Rudolph's business was geared toward the wholesale trade. But when passers-by began stopping to ask for fresh doughnuts, Rudolph knocked a hole in the wall and began selling directly to customers.

By the 1960s, the company had developed an assembly-line system that automated the making of doughnuts in every store, a process so mesmerizing it was eventually put on display for customers.

Rudolph's brother, Lewis, tried to convince him that Krispy Kreme should devote itself to the wholesale mix business and let franchisees take the financial risk of opening new stores. But Vernon Rudolph didn't want to give up that much control.

"We're going to be the biggest doughnut company in the world," his son, Vernon C. Rudolph Jr., recalls his father saying. "We're going to be the leader."

But Vernon Rudolph died in 1973 at age 58. Three years later, Krispy Kreme became a wholly owned subsidiary of Chicago-based conglomerate Beatrice Foods.

Thus, some say, began the first "fall" of Krispy Kreme.

Temporary changes

Beatrice immediately began changing the brand in an attempt to make Krispy Kreme more profitable. It redesigned the familiar green-and-red script logo and began having Krispy Kreme stores sell some of Beatrice's other products — sausage biscuits, brownies, ice cream, soup. Then the company started fiddling with the secret recipe.

"They lessened the grade of flour, the amount of egg — the ingredients that are important to making a good quality doughnut," said executive vice president Jack McAleer, whose father Joseph was one of Rudolph's earliest franchisees — or associates, as that early group of disciples prefers to be called.

McAleer refers to that period as "the dark ages." Sales began to slump.

"Beatrice did not understand what made Krispy Kreme unique and so sweet to its customers," says Joseph McAleer, a business management professor David Denzler wrote in an essay last year. "Rather, they saw it as a name to be leveraged and so to cost managed."

Joseph McAleer, who got his start working for \$1 an hour for Rudolph, was so disgusted by the changes that he began preparations to open his own doughnut business. But when Beatrice put the company up for



Calvin Sell, left, orders some doughnuts from Bart Pontecorvo, right, at a Krispy Kreme store in Winston-Salem, N.C., on Tuesday. The company announced the retirement Tuesday of president and CEO Scott Livengood.

sale in the Alabama market, a company organized about 20 other franchisees and staged a leveraged buyout.

They immediately went back to the original formula and logo.

During the 1980s, the company began to realize that the future lay in the retail business. It decided to venture north of the Mason-Dixon line.

The first target was Indianapolis. Early focus groups were disheartening, said Jack McAleer, who picked out the doughnut holes as a boy in his father's Mobile, Ala., shop.

"There was 2 percent awareness of the brand in that market," he said from his fifth-floor office in the company's Winston-Salem headquarters. "We were thinking this might just be a Southeastern thing, that it might not have legs outside the Southeast."

But when the double drive-thru store opened in 1994, cars were lined up down the street, filled with people who had eaten Krispy Kremes growing up down South or during a family vacation.

"We were completely blown away by it," McAleer said. "That's when we first started to understand that there was something more than just the doughnut even. That there was an emotional connection."

Thus began the second "rise" of Krispy Kreme Doughnuts.

Delicious smells linger north

New Yorkers fell in love with Krispy Kreme in 1996, and even President Clinton was having them delivered to the White House.

Three years later, the little North Carolina company took on Los Angeles.

In 2000, the company went public at \$21 a share. Investors weary from the dot-com bust seemed to embrace this tangible, flour-and-sugar product like financial comfort food.

Soon, Rosie O'Donnell was serenading the treats on her talk show, and Krispy Kreme won key product placements on "Sex and the City" and NBC's "Friends."

The glazed rings suddenly had become chic. Lines at grand openings were two, three hours long.

Postings on the Internet site Epinions were overwhelmingly enthusiastic.

"Evil Lard-pods of Joy," wrote one convert.

"Hot round bites of heaven," raved another.

"Like a big, wet kiss from an angel," cooed a third.

The company jumped to the New York Stock Exchange in 2001. Two years later, the brand went international, opening stores in Australia and England, where the tabloids dubbed Krispy Kremes "as addictive as crack cocaine."

Stock prices soared to near \$50 by the summer of 2003. Nearly 400 Krispy Kreme stores as far away as South Korea were producing nearly 3 billion doughnuts a year.

Then, like a doughnut left too long under a bright lamp, things started to deflate. Last May, Krispy Kreme issued its first profits warning. Blaming the low-carbohydrate craze (each original glazed packs 200 calories, 12 grams of fat and 22 grams of carbs), the company slashed its 2005 earnings forecast by 10 percent.

By fall, the Securities and Exchange Commission announced it was looking into some dubious accounting practices at Krispy Kreme.

Last month, amid allegations in a stockholder lawsuit of padded sales figures, the company restated its 2004 earnings and warned investors that it was in danger of defaulting on a \$150 million credit line. On the news, the share price tumbled more than 17 percent to \$10.15. On Jan. 14, just over a week ago, it reached an all-time low close of \$8.72.

Tuesday, the company's board ousted Livengood as CEO amid expectations of yet another quarterly loss.

Critics say Krispy Kreme grew too big, too fast, that it had gone against the strength of its hot doughnut sales and saturated its markets with cold grocery- and convenience-store pastries.

"They grew faster than they were being efficient," said Carl Sibiski, who follows the company for Morningstar in Chicago. But Sibiski is confident the company can get beyond that.

"From the brand perspective, I think it's still rising in popularity," he said. "Now, from a financial standpoint, the company needs to regain confidence among investors."

A start came with the departure of Livengood, who only weeks earlier had been listed by Business Week magazine as one of the seven worst managers of 2004. News of his ouster sent the stock price up 10 percent.

"This is just a time that we've got to get through," McAleer said. "And we'll look back in years to come, and it'll be one of those dark years, just like the dark ages."

YOUR MONEY

Estate tax or not, a plan is still needed

By JAN NORMAN
The Orange County Register

The current federal estate tax is so goofy it cannot survive in its current form. That's the view of Gordon Schaller, tax- and estate-planning specialist with the Costa Mesa, Calif., office of the Greenberg Trautman law firm.

And for political reasons, 2005 is the year when Congress is most likely to fix it, one way or another, Schaller and lobbying groups agree. In many ways, they say, the uncertainty over the current system is the best thing.

Dena Battle, lobbyist with the National Federation of Independent Business, predicts that the federal estate tax will be repealed permanently. "It's only fair," she and other opponents say.

Pragmatists such as Schaller expect some form of estate tax to survive, if for no other reason than it has been around in one form or other since the late 1700s, when it was used to pay war debts.

Even though attorneys like Schaller, as well as accountants and insurance agents, reap billions of dollars from individuals and businesses trying to minimize their estate taxes, Schaller said he's not taking sides in the issue.

"Our firm is busy either way," he said. "Succession planning is vital for my clients, who tend to be closely held companies in the \$10 million to \$500 million revenue range."

Closely held companies that are family-owned account for 91 percent of all U.S. companies. And they have led the charge for the



Gordon Schaller, a tax- and estate-planning specialist at a law firm in Costa Mesa, Calif., helps family-business owners plan what happens after the owner dies.

past decade to kill what they call the "death tax." Among their arguments for abolishing it: Thousands of businesses have closed or been forced to sell in order to pay estate taxes, eliminating jobs. Thousands more were sold instead of being passed on to the second generation to prevent the estate tax from burdening the family. And untold numbers of family owners have spent billions of dollars on plans and insurance to save their companies and pay the tax.

Ninety business associations make up the Family Business Estate Tax Coalition, whose sole purpose is permanent repeal of the estate tax.

Congress passed reforms in 2001 that reduced the tax, but increased the uncertainty about its future. Under current law, the tax is being gradually phased out and will be eliminated in 2010 but then will be resurrected in full force in 2011 — unless further legislation is passed.

Fast facts about estate taxes

- Current estate-tax provisions and related facts:
 - For a person who dies in 2005, the first \$1.5 million of estate is exempt from federal estate tax.
 - Exemption increases each year, reaching \$3.5 million in 2009. There is no estate tax in 2010. Then in 2011, the portion of estates over \$1 million will again be subject to a 41 percent to 50 percent estate tax.
 - Ninety-one percent of U.S. companies are owned/controlled by families.
 - Forty-three percent of U.S. businesses are passed to second-generation family ownership.
 - Federal government gets about \$22 billion yearly from estate taxes, 1.1 percent of all revenue.
 - The average family business spends \$125,000 on attorneys, accountants and financial experts on estate planning over five years.
 - If estate and gift taxes had been completely repealed in 1999, family-business advocates estimate that those businesses would have created 275,000 more jobs and \$1.7 trillion in capital by 2010.

Sources: Family Business Estate Tax Coalition, National Federation of Independent Business, Greenberg Trautman law firm

Schaller explains that opponents of the tax accepted the 10-year sunset provision to get around a threat-

family businesses. Owners of family businesses should not wait for Congress to resolve this issue, Schaller said. "I recommend to my clients to plan based on the law they know, and that means planning that there will be an estate tax."

Since family businesses tend to be owned by a husband and wife, the first action to plan for is to defer the estate tax to the death of the second spouse, he said.

The second action is to limit the growth of the older generation's overall estate by starting to pass it on to the next generation. One method to accomplish that is a family partnership.

"The senior generation contributes assets, such as stock in the family business, in return for partnership interests to children, grandchildren or trusts that benefit heirs," he said.

He recommends having the partnership appraised by a professional because the market value of a business may be 2 percent to 30 percent lower than its overall assets.

A third action is to use some cash flow from the business to buy life insurance that will pay the estate tax, Schaller said.

Business succession planning will still be important, he said, no matter what happens to the estate tax.

Neither President Bush nor the Republican-controlled Congress wants such a tax on their record, but if they postpone action beyond 2005, they'll be into another election year in which passage will be more difficult, especially if the federal deficit is still large.

Because of the budget deficit, Congress can't afford to eliminate the \$22 billion a year the estate tax brings in, supporters for restoring the tax say. They add that only 2 percent of Americans pay estate taxes, largely because most estates are small enough to be exempted from the tax.

In 2005, estates of less than \$1.5 million are exempt from the estate tax.

They argue that states that have tied their estate taxes to the federal law will lose money, too.

Repeal proponents note that once the estate tax is repealed, heirs who sell estate assets will have to pay capital-gains tax instead. One study claims the new tax approach will raise \$38 billion a year, more than offsetting the estate tax loss and still protecting

WEDNESDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

INDEXES									
52-week High	Low	Name	Last	Net Chg	% Chg	YTD % Chg	52-week High	Low	Name
10,858.56	9,766.40	Dow Jones Industrial	10,515.97	-88.57	-24	-17.5	10,858.56	9,766.40	Dow Jones Industrial
3,823.96	2,743.46	Dow Jones Transportation	3,524.48	-36.74	-1.02	-4.47	+15.96	3,823.96	Dow Jones Transportation
3,277.29	2,593.88	Dow Jones Utilities	3,124.98	-68	-20	-11	+22.65	3,277.29	Dow Jones Utilities
7,273.18	6,211.33	NASDAQ Composite	7,025.27	-55.76	-78	-24.3	+6.02	7,273.18	NASDAQ Composite
1,535.74	1,358.74	NYSE Composite	1,454.52	-5.78	-41	1.32	+15.76	1,535.74	NYSE Composite
2,919.60	1,528.82	Russell 2000	2,075.59	-25.45	-1.54	-4.68	-3.21	2,919.60	Russell 2000
1,217.90	1,066.72	S&P 500	1,184.63	-11.35	-55	-2.25	+3.32	1,217.90	S&P 500
1,665.29	1,459.29	DAX Composite	1,484.1	-5.85	-91	1.45	+6.82	1,665.29	DAX Composite
655.11	515.99	FTSE 100	617.91	-9.96	-1.11	-51.7	+3.42	655.11	FTSE 100
12,024.36	10,764.52	D1 Wilshire 2000	11,657.86	-188.66	-31	-0.12	+4.66	12,024.36	D1 Wilshire 2000

NYSE					KEY MUTUAL FUNDS				
	Dr	Ft	Lt	YTD	Name	NAV	YTD	YTD	
ystem	16	65.54	-0.76	+1	Fidelity Investors: Gonicor	37.58	-0.38	-0.38	
	19	94.32	-1.41	+7	Fidelity Investors: Gonicor	53.94	-0.78	-0.78	
1.60	18	108.27	-1.28	+1	Fidelity Investors: Gonicor	53.94	-0.78	-0.78	
ces	50	14.18	-1.57	-5	Fidelity Investors: Gonicor	53.94	-0.78	-0.78	
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Fatal fall for senior

CA SAN FRANCISCO — A 91-year-old man died after falling off a tour boat into the San Francisco Bay.

Searchers combed the bay for more than six hours before a Coast Guard helicopter spotted the body of Man Yai Yu, authorities said.

Yu, of San Francisco, had been among seven passengers on the Harbor Queen for a one-hour trip.

No sign of snowshoer

CO MESA — Authorities have called off the search for a snowshoer missing since storms dropped several feet of snow on the 10,500-foot-high Grand Mesa, a Mesa County sheriff's spokeswoman said.

Dan Walker, 54, was last seen after separating from his wife and daughter to seek help after they got lost on a backcountry outing. Searchers had found Dan Walker's ski poles earlier in the week and an erratic trail leading away from them, but they found no trace of him.

"The search area that we have out there is closely defined," sheriff's spokeswoman Susan McBurney said. "The sheriff's office strongly believes that if Daniel was in that area, we would have been able to find him."

Walker's wife, Deborah, and the couple's 18-year-old daughter, Camille, were rescued, along with their dog. They had taken shelter under a tree their first night and then dug a snow cave for the second night.

Gunmen crash party

FL HIALEAH — Two gunmen crashed a girl's 15th birthday party, shooting two teenagers to death and injuring another in a back yard crowded with revelers, police said.

One suspect was in custody. The men apparently had a previous dispute with some of the partygoers, Hialeah police spokesman Jose Caragol said. When the two showed up at the party, some of the revelers threw beer bottles at them to force them to leave.

Alvaro Trana, 19, died at the scene, while another teen died at a hospital. The other teen's name was withheld while police were trying to contact his family. Jonathan Aleman, 17, was hit by a bullet but was expected to recover fully, Caragol said.

Tour van stolen

HI HONOLULU — A man stole a tour van from left idling at a beach park with four people inside, but eventually let the four go unharmed, police said.

The van had been left running at Kahe Point Beach Park in Oahu while the driver and three tourists stepped out to admire the view, police said.

Anthony Lopez of Colorado said he and three girls were dozing in the van when a man slid into the driver's seat and sped out of the parking lot. The man agreed to free them after Lopez begged him to let them go.

"He threatened me with the knife and tried to get me to leave the girls and I just pled with him to please let me have the girls,"

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Lopez said.

Lopez said the girls were getting out when a second man pulled up in a blue sedan and shoved him into the bushes. The car then followed the van up a highway.

Police recovered the van, which had been abandoned, but said the victims' belongings were stolen.

African elephant dies

IL CHICAGO — The oldest African elephant in the United States has died at the Lincoln Park Zoo at the age of 55, officials said. Zoo keepers found the 9,000-pound female elephant named Peaches sprawled on the floor of an indoor enclosure. The elephant's eyes weren't focused and she was breathing with difficulty, zoo officials said.

Veterinarians could not get her back on her feet and euthanized her hours later.

Kelly McGrath, a zoo spokeswoman, said the median life expectancy for African elephants in the wild is thought to be around 42. The zoo acquired Peaches and two other African elephants, Tati-ma and Wanki, from the San Diego Zoo in 2003.

Rape charges for women

MA NORTHAMPTON — Two women, including a Smith College student, pleaded innocent to charges they raped and handcuffed another female student and



Church in flames

Boston firefighters spray water on the remains of the First Baptist Church in Boston's Jamaica Plain section. The church, which was built in 1859, was badly damaged in a 1975 arson fire but had been rebuilt. The cause of the blaze was under investigation.

slashed her with knives.

Rachel Ann Klobertanz, 22, and Augusta Claire Kendall, 22, were ordered held on \$2,500 cash bail at their arraignment in Northampton District Court. Both were charged with two counts of aggravated rape, three counts of assault and battery, assault and battery with a dangerous weapon and aggravated assault and battery.

Prosecutor Susan Loehn said the three women first met at a downtown Northampton bar. They then went back to Klobertanz and Kendall's apartment, where they drank several bottles of champagne and engaged in sex that began as consensual but ended as rape, Loehn said.

Loehn said it was not the first time women have been charged with rape in Northampton, but the case was unusual because of the level of violence involved.

Damaged barges

OH REEDSVILLE — Barge traffic on a 42-mile stretch of the Ohio River was curtailed and businesses prepared for the lowest water levels since the late 1800s as salvage crews worked to remove twisted barges from control gates at the Bellevue Lock and Dam.

The barges are keeping the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from closing all eight gates, which control an amount of water in the national pool from Bellevue to the Willow Island Lock and Dam above Parkersburg, W.Va.

The barges were among nine loaded coal barges that broke loose after the vessel Jon J. Strong locked through the dam on Jan. 6 during flooding along the river.

ATV defect settlement

DC WASHINGTON — Minnesota-based Polaris Industries Inc. has agreed to pay nearly \$1 million to settle allegations it belatedly reported defects and hazards on some of its all-terrain vehicles, the first such penalty involving ATVs, the government announced.

The defects were linked to dozens of accidents and at least 25 injuries from December 1998 to February 2001, including burns, torn muscles, scrapes and bruises, the Consumer Product Safety Commission said.

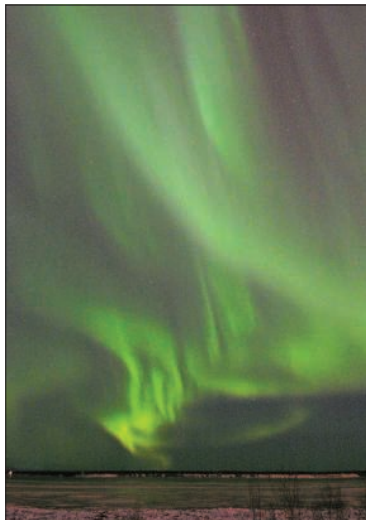
Hall of Fame sued again

PA SHARON — A businessman who helped start the Vocal Group Hall of Fame has filed his third lawsuit in less than a month against the foundation and chief executive now in charge.

The latest suit filed by James E. Winner Jr. seeks the return of assets and memorabilia worth more than \$150,000 that Winner contends were removed from the museum.

The museum, about 60 miles northwest of Pittsburgh, shut its doors last year amid financial troubles and canceled its 2004 inductions.

Winner, who owns the company that makes "The Club" vehicle anti-theft device, has sued the hall and its foundation for repayment of a \$10,000 loan and claims he is owed \$50,000 in back taxes.



Northern lights

The aurora borealis appears over upper Cook Inlet in Anchorage, Alaska.



What do you want? A bear trying to hibernate in a tree during sub-zero temperatures caught the eye of Peshigo, Wis., residents who kept the large cub awake. The bear may have been confused or kicked out of its den by its mother.



Snow creations

Alex Lloyd creates a snow angel while her brothers and sisters build a snowman village in Kalispell, Mont.



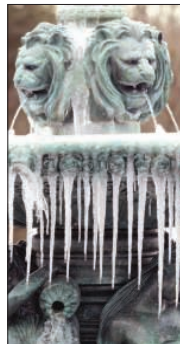
Overcrowding

Students from St. Louis University form a sled train as they move down the icy slope of St. Louis' Art Hill in Forest Park.



Such a nag

A male Canada goose is a constant companion for a goat on a farm owned by Poldi and Horst Schmitt in Napa, Calif. The goose arrived in 2002 and now lives with the goat herd. The goose adopted the female goat, keeping all other goats, except her offspring, away from her.



Icy covering

icicles created by extremely cold temperatures give a new look to a fountain at a North Wales, Pa., private residence.



Alone on the path

Keather Krajic walks along the Centennial Trail on her way to class at North Idaho College in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

Hockey dad charged

MA BOSTON — A Swampscott man already banned from youth hockey games will face a criminal charge next month for allegedly grabbing, shaking and cursing at his son's 8-year-old teammate.

Jordan Waldman, 51, appeared in Peabody District Court but waived his right to a hearing with the clerk magistrate, who was trying to determine if a criminal charge would be filed in the case.

His decision not to tell his side of the story resulted in the clerk magistrate charging Waldman with assault and battery, for which Waldman's son had been in an on-ice shoving match on Dec. 26. The boy reportedly was uninjured.

Waldman allegedly grabbed 8-year-old Cameron Byrne by the shirt, yanked him forward, and yelled at him after the boy and Waldman's son had been in an on-ice shoving match on Dec. 26. The boy reportedly was uninjured.

Waste deal questioned

VA RICHMOND — An environmental group is asking a court to throw out a confidential deal in which a waste company agreed to pay Virginia \$1 for each ton of trash it barged into the state.

In the deal, state officials also agreed to push for a method favored by Waste Management Inc. of testing huge waste containers to determine whether they are watertight. The test calls for filling a container with 2 feet of water and checking for leaks, but the James River Association favored a more stringent air-pressure test.

The association said the agreement, which was reached in December 2002 to settle a lawsuit, made a sham out of the public-comment period required before the rules were adopted.

During a public hearing in the spring of 2003, many people, unaware of the deal already reached, called for a \$5-to-\$10 fee and a tougher test.

Can't smoke and golf?

CA SAN FRANCISCO — A proposed new law that would ban smoking in recreation areas regulated by the city may include public golf courses.

The ordinance, drafted by Supervisor Michela Alito-Pier, originally was written to ban "inhaling, exhaling, burning or carrying any lighted smoking equipment for tobacco or any other weed or plant" in all outdoor recreation areas, including parks, gardens, piers and playing fields.

It was later amended to exempt golf courses, because course operators fear losing revenue and forfeiting their competitive edge in luring tournaments to town.

But Supervisor Chris Daly said he was considering amending the ban when it reaches the board on Jan. 25 to include golf courses. "It doesn't seem like there is a good policy argument to exclude golf courses for fiscal reasons," he said.

Gun bill reintroduced

RI PROVIDENCE — Democratic state Rep. Joanne Giannini reintroduced a bill that would require people subject to domestic violence restraining orders to turn in their guns to police or sell them to licensed gun dealers. An identical proposal died in a Senate committee last year.

New base terminal

GA FORT BENNING — Fort Benning has opened a new 75,000-square-foot airport terminal. Instead of taking a three-hour bus ride to Warner Robins Air Force Base to board a plane, soldiers now can wait comfortably in the \$11.7 million facility before flying out at Fort Benning's Lawson Army Airfield. The new facility can hold up to 1,500 troops.

Reprieve for sick inmate

TX DALLAS — An elderly man who served more than 40 years in prison on a wrongful conviction has received a medical reprieve from a nearly three-decade-old arrest warrant.

Robert Carroll Coney, 76, of Dallas, was released in August after his 1962 Angleton County robbery conviction was ruled a case of mistaken identity.

He was arrested in December on a 1976 warrant accusing him of escaping from a Georgia prison. He had been serving an eight- to 10-year sentence in Georgia for forging checks.

Coney suffers from diabetes, blindness and a heart condition. He will remain under supervised restrictions, similar to those on parole.

Water system expansion

OH PUT-IN-BAY — A Lake Erie resort island where 1,400 visitors came down June plans to expand its water system to all businesses on the island.

State health officials believe the illnesses on South Bass Island were caused by malfunctioning septic systems that contaminated more than 40 private wells that served some of the island's inns, wineries and bars.

The illnesses were a blow to tourism on the island, which draws about 500,000 annually.

The \$5.2 million expansion of the water system in Put-In-Bay, the island's village, should take up to three years, said village administrator David Gruet. The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency must approve the plan.

Plea in brothel case

ME PORTLAND — A former bookkeeper for a Kittery health club alleged to be a brothel has pleaded guilty to conspiracy to launder more than \$3 million for the club.

Mary Ann Manzoli, 64, of Lynnfield, Mass., is the widow of one of the former owners of the Kittery Health Club, also known as the Danish Health Club.

She now faces up to 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. A sentencing date has not been scheduled.

Federal authorities allege that the club, which advertised itself as a massage parlor, served for 20 years as a place where male customers paid to have sex with women.

Court documents say Manzoli regularly wrote paychecks for the club's managers and paid bills for utilities, laundry and heating oil. She also authorized payments for advertisements in the adult entertainment section of the Boston Phoenix, and other magazines distributed in strip clubs and adult bookstores, court records show.

Stories and photos from wire services

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Social Security has guarantee

Stripes' reprint of James K. Glassman's column "Here's what's wrong with Social Security" (Jan. 6), might leave some people thinking that private retirement accounts are a better deal than Social Security.

Glassman points out that Social Security returns 1.5 percent to 2 percent on investment and that the private sector does much better, averaging around 5 percent return on investment over 30 years.

This is true, but Glassman fails to take into account that Social Security benefits are guaranteed and that private accounts are not; returns on investments are always lower when the risk of failure and loss of investment is lower.

Glassman feels that people should be allowed to invest money that they pay in Social Security taxes into private retirement accounts. Well, nothing stops people from taking part of their after-tax income now and investing in the market or Treasury bonds, however most people don't because they are unable or unwilling to privatize (gutting) Social Security won't change that.

If the market could take care of people in their old age, Franklin D. Roosevelt wouldn't have needed to create Social Security in the first place.

Col. John D. Gray
Camp Patrick, Kuwait

Guard, Reserve vital

The writer of "Angry over re-up bonuses" (letter, Jan. 8) seems to be mistaken or misinformed over the active duty's ability to receive re-enlistment bonuses, because they are available to members of the active-duty military as well as the National Guard and Reserve.

The role of the National Guard and Reserve should be to be complemented by the writer's statement that "the only time reservists do the same job we do is one weekend a month, two weeks out of the year."

Perhaps this active-duty soldier wouldn't mind staying deployed for two or three years instead of the usual one, since she seems to scoff at the importance of the National Guard and Reserve. After all, the National Guard and Reserve make up approximately 40 percent of U.S. forces in Iraq alone, not to mention others deployed throughout the world.

Tell us what you think

Stars and Stripes welcomes your comments on editorials and columns that are published in the newspaper, and values letters on topics of importance in the lives of our readers. All letters must be signed, and must include the writer's address or base and telephone number. Please limit all letters to 300 words. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, taste and clarity.

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Via fax from outside Japan:
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E-mail: letters@stripes.com

The writer must have a distorted perception of reality if she thinks for one moment that she's in a danger zone. I've been to Camp As Sayliyah, Qatar, on rest and recuperation, and it sure didn't seem like much of what the writer calls a "combat zone." The combat stress in Qatar is a long time to the dining facility or Burger King.

The writer's deployment could be slightly longer had the National Guard and Reserve not been at the Department of Defense's disposal.

Sp. John A. Griggs
Camp Bucca, Iraq

Quotas' hurt Bronze Stars

I am a citizen-soldier redeploying home. I was activated and volunteered in 2002. I deployed to Iraq in spring 2003; again in spring 2004. Now I have 17 months in the combat zone and it's 2005.

During my time here I've organized a humanitarian relief drive for Iraqi children, been noted by a two-star general for saving lives in Ramadi, and not at all mortared, medically evacuated, almost killed by a roadside bomb and, like most of us, have seen heaven suffering, dead and wounded.

I've earned my right to go home. What I haven't earned is a Bronze Star medal. That's not a complaint. I've done my job and then some and am proud of it. Our flight crews, foot soldiers, sacrificed, wounded and convayers should get them.

What should never have happened is that in my current unit about 45 nominations for Bronze Stars were generated simply because we're a "top-heavy" combat support group unit and the medal is a good "reward" or career boost. Nearly 30 were awarded — mostly to officers. Only about seven went to enlisted and even fewer to gun truck operators/gunners who put their lives on the line almost daily. Just because there's an "allowed quota" doesn't mean we should dishonor such a meritorious medal awards was a problem in the Persian Gulf War. I don't remember it that way. Back then, we had one recipient in my front-line unit of 110. I remember he earned it.

Staff Sgt. Dana K. Beausoleil
Camp Victory, Kuwait

Reactions to swastika 'absurd'

Prince Harry appears to be getting properly PC'd for his Nazi costume ("Harry apologizes for Nazi costume," Jan. 15).

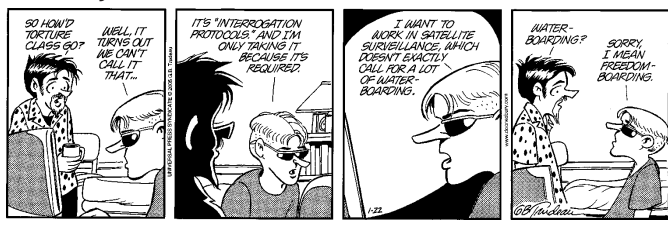
This latest incident by a future world figure only confirms society's low expectations of its leaders. Remember when leaders led and weren't worried about appearing whiny special-interest groups?

Lord Janner (a leader in Britain's Jewish community) stated that what Harry did was "evil" and the Simon Wiesenthal Center wants Harry to "atone" at Auschwitz (a death camp in Poland) as if the youth committed some unspeakable sin. These are absurd reactions to a simple costume and, like it or not, the Nazis existed and are a part of world history.

Unfortunately, society seems oversensitized by unpopular events or facts of history and therefore demands that leaders bow down to what's politically correct instead of standing on what is right: those ancient characteristics such as honor, valor, integrity and principle. If this is what people want from their future king, then I will be following the yeoman.

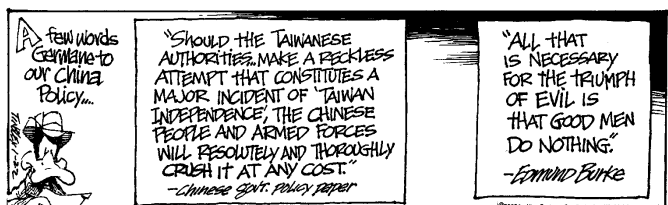
Mike Blackburn
Baghdad

BY GARRY TRUDEAU



BY BRUCE TINSLEY

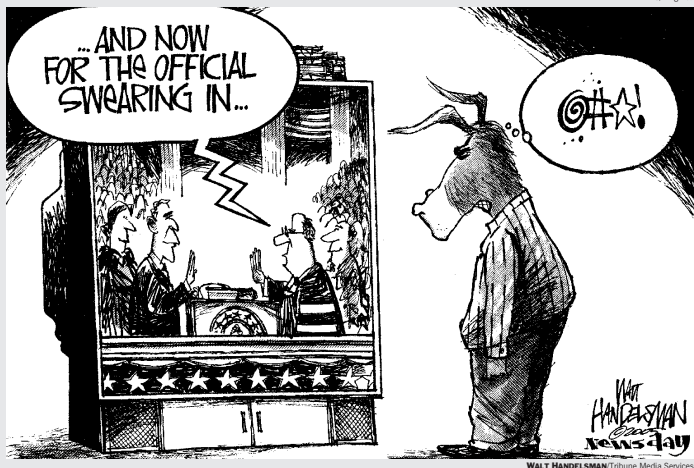
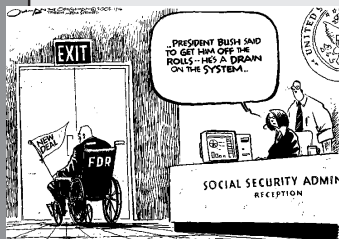
Mallard Fillmore



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Looking at the news

A weekly sampling of U.S. editorial cartoons



Horoscope

The Cancer moon brings the focus back to the domestic cocoon. If things are not comfortable and orderly at home, you probably won't feel confident anywhere else in the world, so there's no point in going out before you "clean your room." If it takes you back to a 10-year-old mind-set, all the better. Being restricted actually had its benefits.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (January 22): It's all about your charm this year. Improving your communication skills has a far-reaching effect on your finances and love life. You'll sock some savings away in April. Have confidence in your initial reactions this spring. What you first think is a mistake turns out extremely well in March. Fabulous relationships are had with Leos and Sagittarians.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Offer a humble opinion. You can make a difference since folks are listening more closely than usual. The romantic spirit of your life is energized by an empowering thought. Why settle for being continually disgruntled?

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): The main excitement comes from meeting people on the outer stairs of your comfort zone. You're awed by the odd. But no matter how intoxicating new friends may be, don't neglect the old ones.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21): It's mesmerizing to watch people who are battling out of their league. Analyze what you see, and you'll gain the same confidence and ease. You'll be thrown into a similar situation next week.

CANCER (June 22-July 22): You're rising, growing — and freaking out. Break down your stress to its most elemental level — you perceive danger, and your body says, "Flee!" Explain to your body that the dangers are not real.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Seek harmony in all things, literally and

figuratively. Harmonize along with the radio. Sync up your body language with your conversation partner's. Balance the books to create better financial accord.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):

Pragmatism works for you. How do you learn to excel at romance? The same way you learn to ride a bike, play baseball or perform at job interviews: through knowledge and practice.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): There are

no quick fixes, so commit to the learning process. Besides, you're being watched by people who find your mind extremely attractive. The more education you get, the sexier you are.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21): When you're hot, you're hot — and you're HOT! Flirt, sing, boogie. Your enthusiasm for life will attract everything from financial opportunity to strange looks from people on the street.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Procrastination is the enemy! Get up early, and get it done! Money/time-saving tip: When it comes to new recipes, household items or cleaning methods, the original is still the best.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You've worked hard, and somehow, the grand total doesn't seem to reflect how much effort went into your project. Go back, and add it up again. You're forgetting the knowledge and experience you gained.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Excellent bargains are everywhere. Just be sure you really need what you're accumulating. Share your life with those who live at a distance. Your best moments today are spent laughing with family on the phone.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You want to be the very best at your various roles in life. This desire will get you only halfway. Not knowing how to go the rest of the way is frustrating. Ask your higher consciousness for help.

Creators Syndicate

Holiday Mathis



Calvin and Hobbes



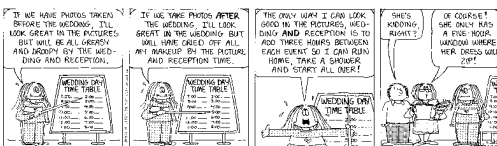
Jump Start



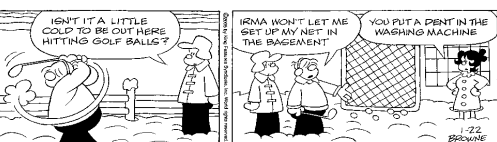
Zits



Cathy



Hi and Lois



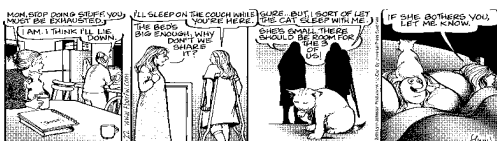
Beetle Bailey



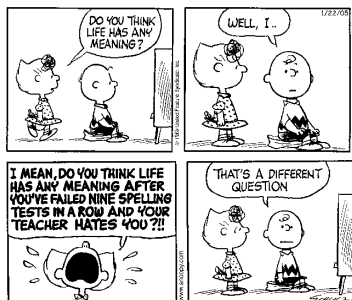
Red and Rover



Better or Worse



Peanuts



Foxrot



B.C.



Baby Bites



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11
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39	40	41				42	43				44	45
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49											50	
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53											54	
55											56	

Across

- 1 Bloke
- 5 Austin Powers' power source
- 9 Pump up the volume
- 12 Wheels of fortune?
- 13 Finished
- 14 Guy's companion
- 15 Stench
- 16 Catcher's catcher
- 17 Commotion
- 18 Escortire
- 19 Mag. staffers
- 20 Caudron concoction
- 21 Chignon
- 23 "Caught ya!"
- 25 Sci-fi critter, often
- 28 Tuesdays
- 29 With —

Down

- 1 Daffish one
- 2 Stash
- 3 "Famous" cookie-maker
- 4 Lucrative government projects
- 5 Instant
- 6 "Metamor-phoses" poet
- 7 Stuff thrown overboard
- 8 Tidbit
- 9 Gelling agent
- 10 Put together
- 11 Oxen's burden
- 24 Aerobatic maneuver
- 25 Before
- 26 Arthur Hailey novel
- 27 Cattle call
- 28 Boom times
- 29 Skater Babilonia
- 30 Knock
- 31 Milleu for
- 32 27-Down
- 33 Always
- 34 Flocks of geese in flight
- 35 Chopping spree?
- 36 "Friends" spinoff
- 40 Emanation
- 41 Particular
- 42 Hertz rival
- 43 Malaria symptom
- 44 Radius' neighbor
- 45 Staying power
- 46 Payable

Answer to Previous Puzzle

DEB	BAJA	JAGS		
ALE	UPON	ERIE		
MIN	ARETS	TIRE		
	JINX	PSALM		
START	FILE			
HOME	MINUTIAE			
ANI	SORTS	GPA		
MIN	STREL	ONES		
	WAND	AMORY		
MOSEY	STIR			
ABED	MINOTAUR			
SIRE	AWOL	NRA		
STAN	COWL	TIP		

I-22

CRYPTOQUIP

UBK JOGRFAVAVD BAVA
PR O NKU FAEQUA, EGU
UNAX ZPROJXX PVKRAF KGU
UNAPV FPZZAVARIA.
Yesterday's Cryptquip: A GUY HAD FLIPPED A LAUNDRY "DETERGENT" CONTAINER ON THE SHELF, SO I TURNED THE TIDE.
Today's Cryptquip Clue: Z equals F

Don't feel guilty for helping out

Dear Abby: I'm a 34-year-old professional woman who has never married. For the last two years, I have been dating "Mel," the single father of 11-year-old "Tracey." We live separately, but I'm at their house frequently, helping with and sharing meals, helping Tracey with her homework, contributing to and buying groceries, doing dishes and other chores. I often sleep at Mel's and am involved in the evening "tucking in" ritual. It has been an enlightening and challenging experience for me.

Dear Abby



When I do things independently, keep in mind that Mel and Tracey are almost always invited to participate in whatever I'm doing — he often chooses to stay home. Then he tells me it's unfair that I get "all the freedom" and he's stuck here with the kid again. Mel has never had a baby sitter, although the parents of Tracey's friends were willing to have her on play dates

a few times when we first started dating.

I try to be fair and helpful, but it seems like Mel resents me (or at least his life choices) for not always dedicating myself to "the family." Is he right? Am I being selfish? Should I stand my ground even if it results in the end of the relationship?

Cornered in Montana

Dear Cornered: Stand your ground and recognize that you are dealing with a negative personality. Rather than being grateful for everything you do for him and his daughter, Mel is attempting to make you feel guilty for not doing more. It's not selfish to want or need personal time, so please don't allow yourself to be put on the defensive or manipulated.

There is a reason you signed your letter "Cornered."

Before devoting more time to the relationship, carefully consider what his expectations of you

are and whether you're willing and able to meet them.

Dear Abby: I recently gave birth to a beautiful baby girl and named her "Amber Marie."

Amber's name was a last-minute decision. Until I went into labor, my husband and I were leaning toward naming her Rhonda Marie, after a deceased relative. When we announced the change, many family members were less than thrilled. Amber Marie is now 4 months old and some family members are saying things like, "Hi, Amber, you were supposed to be named Rhonda," or "I still like the name Rhonda better."

What should I say to these people?

— New Mommy in Michigan

Dear New Mommy: Say, "Please stop saying that. Her name is Amber, and I don't want her to be confused."

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to <http://www.uepress.com/dearabby> Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

CHURS

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KEVOE

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POLEEP

A: " " " " OF " " " " " "

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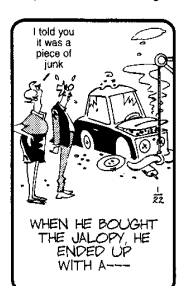
POLEEP

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THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By Henri Arnold and Mike Argiron



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: FEWER HEAVY STURDY EFFIGY
Answer: She went away to college in a new car because she — WAS "GIFTED"

2nd wife deserves insurance policy

Dear Annie: My wife's mother died 20 years ago, and her father married "Lucy" about a year after they were a very happy couple, although some of my wife's siblings were resentful of their marriage.



When Dad developed Alzheimer's, my wife and I moved closer so she could spend more time with him. During this time, she developed a close friendship with Lucy and also gave Lucy some much-needed downtime. This was the only break Lucy was able to get, even though the other siblings lived nearby.

Dad died recently. To say that Lucy was a wonderful, dedicated wife and caregiver would be an understatement. My wife, the eldest of the kids, helped with pre-planning the funeral as well as with some of the necessary legal paperwork. Unfortunately, after the funeral, two of my wife's sisters decided that the "kids" were entitled to Dad's meager life insurance policy.

My wife and I believe this policy should go to Lucy. She is nearly 70 years old and is going to need the money. The siblings have the entire family (even our children) stirred up against my wife. They are wrongly convinced that she and Lucy conspired against them. Lucy was a good wife for 19 years.

Dad's will and insurance policy are clear. I think the siblings are showing intense greed over a small amount of money (under \$30,000).

Embarrassed by The Family
Dear Embarrassed: Those siblings are trying to punish Lucy for the "crime" of marrying their father, and your wife is caught in the crossfire. Since Dad's will and insurance policy are clear, let the lawyers handle the vultures. Your wife should hold her head up and ignore their mean-spirited selfishness.

Dear Annie: What is your opinion about forcing kids to eat

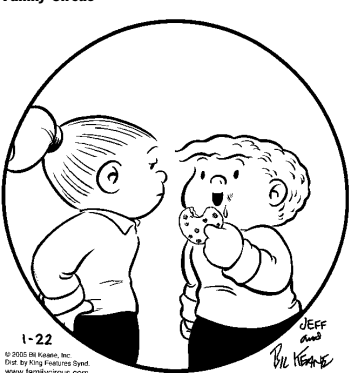
My wife and I have a fundamental disagreement on this matter. Our children are all under the age of 11. She says, "You eat what you get," and there is no negotiation. You have to finish all your meal, and if you do not, you will get it the next day for breakfast.

On the other hand, I went through this as a child and can tell you it felt like abuse. It destroyed my self-esteem, which could explain many related problems, like failing school, bed-wetting, fighting with siblings and so on.

Dear Brooklyn, N.Y.
Dear Brooklyn: We suspect the food issue was only one of many that plagued your childhood. Nonetheless, we do not think children should be forced to clean their plates. Children should be exposed to a variety of foods and encouraged to try them, but they should not have to finish every bite.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

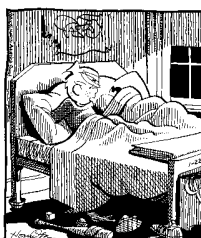
Family Circus



"I like chocolate chip cookies except for the cookie part."



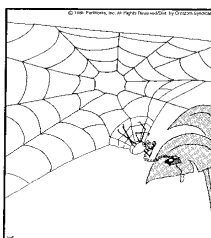
Dennis the Menace



"Don't worry about monsters under the bed, Jack. My non-sap is dirty socks will keep 'em away."

© Gary Larson

The Far Side



"Don't ask me how it happened. Stan—just get your abdomen over here and out me unstuck!"

Non Sequitur

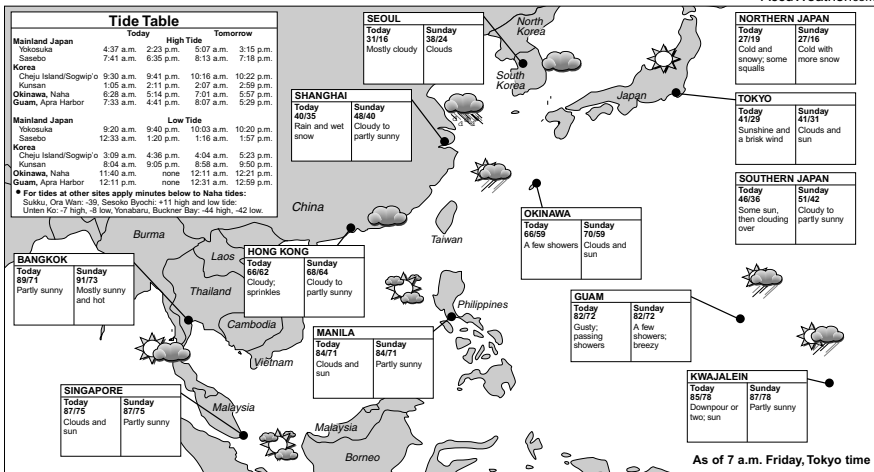


"He was counting on a big turnout of 'NEEDING' today."

The Pacific Forecast

All maps, forecasts and data provided by AccuWeather, Inc. © 2005

AccuWeather.com



As of 7 a.m. Friday, Tokyo time

Extended Forecasts

TOKYO
 Monday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 45, low 40.
 Tuesday: Mostly cloudy, high 49, low 31.

KADENA
 Monday: Partly sunny, high 72, low 61.
 Tuesday: Partly sunny, high 74, low 59.

SEoul
 Monday: Snow flurries, high 38, low 20.
 Tuesday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 31, low 11.

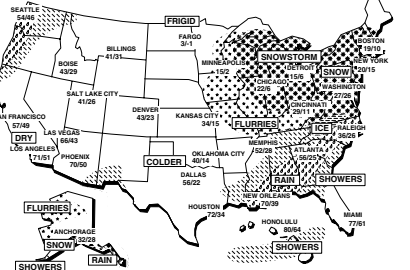
MANILA
 Monday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 84, low 71.
 Tuesday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 86, low 73.

HAGATNA
 Monday: Showers, high 84, low 74.
 Tuesday: Showers, high 84, low 74.

Thursday's USA Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Albuquerque	63/39	Los Angeles	78/54
Amarillo	72/41	Little Rock	70/44
Anchorage	25/18	Louisville	37/26
Ashville	46/34	Miami	71/53
Baltimore	36/20	Milwaukee	27/14
Birmingham	62/45	Nashville	51/39
Bismarck	28/18	New York	34/12
Boise	44/29	Omaha	45/26
Boston	30/7	Orlando	69/46
Brownsville	80/60	Philadelphia	36/14
Buffalo	14/0	Phoenix	76/55
Burlington	15/10	Pittsburgh	25/8
Charleston, SC	56/39	Portland, OR	56/43
Charlotte	50/32	Portland, ME	28/-2
Cleveland	23/10	Salt Lake City	48/26
Columbus, OH	27/14	St. Louis	51/27
Duluth	17/5	San Antonio	75/50
El Paso	66/44	San Diego	74/54
Hartford	30/6	San Juan	80/52
Helena	53/35	Tampa	68/50
Indianapolis	32/17	Tulsa	68/39
Jacksonville	62/40	Washington	38/23
Kansas City	55/29	Wichita	65/37

Saturday, January 22



U.S. Extended Forecast

A major winter storm may affect the Northeast this weekend. A storm system will spread south across the Great Lakes and Ohio Valley Saturday morning; a wintry mix will impact areas along the Ohio River. Snow will accompany the storm as it progresses into the Tennessee Valley and the eastern Carolinas. The storm system will finally push offshore by mid-day Sunday. Snowfall accumulations of 6 inches or more are possible from southern Massachusetts to northern Virginia. Rain and thunderstorms will move through the Southeast along the associated cold front. Meanwhile, rain will soak Washington and Oregon.

Saturday's Pacific Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Bangkok	89/71	Iwakuni	47/33
Beijing	35/25	Kadena AB	66/59
Camp Casey	35/18	Kunsan AB	38/28
Christchurch	73/59	Kwajalein	85/78
Diego Garcia	86/78	Manila	84/71
Hagatna	82/72	Masawa AB	28/18
Hanoi	71/62	Osan	37/21
Hong Kong	66/62	Perth	92/71
Honolulu	80/64	Pusan	43/31

Saturday's World Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Acapulco	89/72	Budapest	35/21
Athens	56/35	Buenos Aires	91/66
Auckland	72/58	Cairo	63/43
Baghdad	52/29	Cancun	78/64
Barbados	85/70	Cape Town	75/53
Barcelona	57/44	Geneva	36/24
Berlin	35/21	Guatemala	83/63
Bermuda	60/52	Honolulu	80/64
Brussels	38/24	Johannesburg	85/63



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The Pentagon Newspaper
STARS & STRIPES

No. 4 Duke subdues upstart Hurricanes

BY STEVEN WINE
The Associated Press

CORAL GABLES, Fla. — The Duke Blue Devils have four perimeter players in their starting lineup and just three recruited scholarship players on their bench. They also have a 14-0 record.

"We're getting to our destination on a side street, not a super-highway," Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski said.

Duke's game Wednesday against surprising Atlantic Coast Conference newcomer Miami was expected to be an alley fight. Instead, the Blue Devils built a 19-point lead in the second half and won 92-83.

Junior Sheldon Williams scored a career-high 30 points for the fourth-ranked Blue Devils, who shot 61 percent.

"They shot the ball great," Miami coach Frank Haith said. "They were very sound and didn't make many mistakes."

The Blue Devils have their best record after 14 games since 1991-92, when they won their first 17 games en route to the national championship. They're 4-0 in the ACC.

"We know who we are," Krzyzewski said. "We're not an outstanding team, but we're a good team, and we're trying to get better."

Duke's first visit to Miami since 1988 attracted a sellout crowd of 7,000 to cheer on the Hurricanes, who averaged 2,545 at home last season. Miami students, historically apathetic about the basketball program, began lining up for tickets five hours before game time. Celebrities Alex Rodriguez and Alonzo Mourning were among those sitting in the front row.

But Duke took the crowd out of the game.

"This was a great win," said Daniel Ewing, who scored 16 points in 40 minutes. "We knew it was going to be a high-energy atmosphere, their fans were going to be in it, and they were going to be ready to play. We followed our game plan pretty well. We



Duke's Sheldon Williams (left), shooting over Miami's Anthony King, scored a career-high 30 points on Wednesday and made 12 of 12 field-goal attempts. Duke (14-0) shot 61 percent from the field.

just executed real well on both ends tonight."

The Hurricanes (12-4, 3-2) had won their past three conference games, but fell behind early and trailed by 19 with 10 minutes left.

"We're just holding a chip on our shoulder now," said Miami senior William Frisby, who tied a career-high with 19 points.

Robert Hite, the Hurricanes' scoring leader with an average of 19 points per game, was held to six points on 2-for-7 shooting. His first points came with 6½ minutes left when Duke led by 15.

Williams went 11-for-12 from the field and 8-for-8 from the free-throw line, and he added seven rebounds in 37 minutes.

"We're getting the ball in my as much as we can," Ewing said.

"When he has it, pretty much no one can stop him down there one-on-one."

The Blue Devils shot 31-for-51 to finish above 50 percent for the third consecutive game. They made 10 of 21 three-pointers.

"We wanted to change the way we've been starting games," Williams said. "One of the things we wanted to do was get going early."

They did. Penetrating inside early, the Blue Devils sank five shots in a row for a 16-10 lead. Miami made six of seven during one stretch and was up 17-16, then cooled off as Duke began to pull away.

Guillermo Diaz had 25 points for Miami.

Anthony Harris added 15, and Anthony King had 10 points and 10 rebounds for the Hurricanes.

Kansas, BC barely remain undefeated

The Associated Press

Kansas and Boston College barely remained unbeaten on Wednesday night.

Second-ranked Kansas hung on for a 59-57 victory when Nebraska's Corey Simms missed an open three-pointer with 2.6 seconds left.

And No. 9 Boston College trailed by six with 2 minutes to go before rallying past Villanova 67-66 on Jared Dudley's go-ahead free throws with 5.5 seconds remaining.

"It just shows the will to win," Dudley said.

At Lawrence, Kan., Wayne Simms scored all 12 of his points in the second half and Kansas (14-0, 4-0 Big 12) edged Nebraska despite making only 13 of 28 free throws and being out rebounded 43-36.

The Cornhuskers (8-6, 2-2) went for the win and not the tie on their final shot. Simms missed a three-pointer with the clock winding down, and Alex Galindo hugged the rebound to his chest as the buzzer sounded.

"We got lucky. He had a wide-open look," Kansas' Michael Lee said. "You can't draw it up any better than that for a game-winning shot."

At Boston, Dudley scored a career-high 36 points — topping his previous best of 24 by halftime — and Boston College (15-0, 4-0 Big East) scored the last seven points of the game to beat Villanova (9-4, 2-3).

The Eagles have played a lot of close games this season, including overtime against Holy Cross, double overtime against Yale and a win over Kent State after a buzzer-beating shot.

"I know we put ourselves in that situation, and we've had success," coach Al Skinner said. "But we don't want to play that way."

In other Feb. 25 games Wednesday:

No. 6 North Carolina 77, Clemson 58. At Clemson, S.C., Rashad McCants scored 17 of his 23 points in the second half and North Carolina overcame a sluggish start.

McCants hit consecutive three-pointers to close a 19-7 run that put North Carolina (15-2, 4-1 Atlantic Coast Conference) ahead to stay, 46-34, with 12:07 left.

Point guard Raymond Felton added 11 points and 10 rebounds for the Tar Heels, who had won

Men's Top 25 Roundup

14 straight before falling to Wake Forest on Saturday.

Freshman Cheyenne Moore made four three-pointers and led Clemson (10-7, 1-4) with a career-high 14 points.

No. 8 Kentucky 53, Mississippi 50. At Oxford, Miss., freshman Rajon Rondo scored 11 of his 13 points in the second half to help Kentucky rally from a 15-point deficit.

Ole Miss (11-7, 2-3 Southeastern Conference) had the ball trailing 51-50 in the final moments, but Kendrick Fox missed a three-pointer with 19 seconds to play and Kentucky's Patrick Sparks hit two free throws to extend the lead.

Londrick Nolen's desperation three-pointer at the buzzer bounced off the rim, giving the Wildcats (13-2, 4-0) their second big comeback win of the season and ninth victory in 10 games. Kellenia Azubuike had 11 points for Kentucky, but to its lowest point total of the season.

No. 14 Louisville 92, East Carolina 41. At Louisville, Ky., reserve guard Brandon Jenkins scored a career-high 14 points and backup forward Oris George had 13 points and 10 rebounds to lead Louisville.

Taquan Dean scored 13 and Juan Palacios had 12 points and 10 rebounds for the Cardinals (15-3, 4-1 Conference USA), who dominated from the start, propelled by sharp three-point shooting and suffocating full-court pressure.

The Pirates (5-12, 0-5) committed 24 turnovers and shot 26 percent (15 of 58).

No. 20 Cincinnati 80, Charlotte 58. At Cincinnati, Nick Williams scored 19 of his career-high 22 points in the second half, stealing the Bears' ball.

Jason Maxiell had 23 points and Eric Hicks grabbed 13 rebounds as Cincinnati (15-2, 4-1 Conference USA) rebounded from a 19-point loss to Louisville on Saturday, when the Bearcats blew a 17-point lead because of poor rebounding and free-throw shooting.

Charlotte (12-3, 3-1) had won nine in a row, its longest winning streak in 14 years.

Texas' leading scorer ruled academically ineligible

The Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — Sophomore forward P.J. Tucker, the leading scorer and rebounder for No. 15 Texas, is academically ineligible and will miss the rest of the basketball season, the school announced Thursday.

Tucker, averaging 13.7 points and 8.0 rebounds a game, will stay in school and be allowed to practice but is not eligible for competition.

Texas (14-3) plays at No. 18 Oklahoma (14-2) on Saturday.

"I have some academic issues I need to take care of in order to return to the team," Tucker said. "I'm really disappointed that I'm going to have to miss the remainder of the season. I feel like I've let a lot of people down, including myself."

The university has refused to comment on details of his problems, citing federal privacy laws that protect student records.

Rift threatens U.S. World Cup qualifier

NEW YORK — Negotiators for the U.S. Soccer Federation and its union are scheduled to meet with a federal mediator on Thursday in an effort to resolve the dispute over money and other issues threatening to keep the regular players off the field for a World Cup qualifier on Feb. 9 at Trinidad and Tobago.

If there is no agreement by Feb. 1, the USSF says it will use replacement players.

Temple football to stay in Division I-A

PHILADELPHIA — Temple's football program will remain in Division I-A but will play without a conference next season, the school announced Thursday.

A 12-member task force has been studying the future of Temple football since the

summer. It made the recommendation to the chairman of Temple's board of trustees, Howard Gittis.

Temple made up part of the Big East for failing to meet minimum requirements for membership, most notably in attendance, facilities and fielding a competitive team.

Spears hired as Grambling grid coach

GRAMBLING, La. — Melvin Spears was hired as Grambling State's football coach Thursday after serving on an interim basis last season.

Spears was offensive coordinator during Doug Williams' six seasons as head coach.

Sports
briefs

James becomes youngest to register triple-double

BY ANNE M. PETERSON
The Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — LeBron James could be in for quite a few more nights like this, just as long as the Cleveland Cavaliers win.

James had 27 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists to become the youngest player in NBA history to record a triple-double, and the Cavaliers beat the Trail Blazers 107-101 Wednesday night to send Portland to its fifth straight loss.

"I think he could go out and play for a triple-double every night and get it," Cavaliers teammate Jeff McInnis said. "But he doesn't play for that, and that's a credit to him."

Lamar Odom was 20 years and 54 days on Dec. 30, 1999, when he had one for the Los Angeles Clippers. James beat Odom's mark by 34 days.

"I just want to create an atmosphere where winning is the most important thing," James said. "It's not individual goals. I could care less about individual goals. I'm going out and averaging good numbers. But we're winning, and I'm happy."

James' parents to Zydrunas Ilgauskas

with 1:19 left gave him 10 assists and completed the triple-double. His teammates congratulated him during a timeout a short time later, and his mother cheered him from a court-side seat.

"That was never a goal of mine to do it, but once I kept getting so close I wanted to try to get over with it," James said. "Winning this ballgame tonight, and plus getting the triple-double, it gets no better than this."

Even the Blazers were impressed.

"He's in my top 5 of all time," forward Ruben Patterson said. "He's strong and gets to the basket. He's a great player. So he's in my top 5."

Igauskas had 21 points and 11 rebounds, and the Cavaliers led by as many as 19, Cleveland is 2-2 in the midst of a six-game road trip, with the Sacramento Kings coming up Thursday night.

Nick Van Exel had 28 points, while Damon Stoudamire had 27 for Portland, which has lost five straight.

When the Blazers came within 90-7 late in the game, James hit a three-pointer to stop Portland's momentum.

"Lamar played like that —

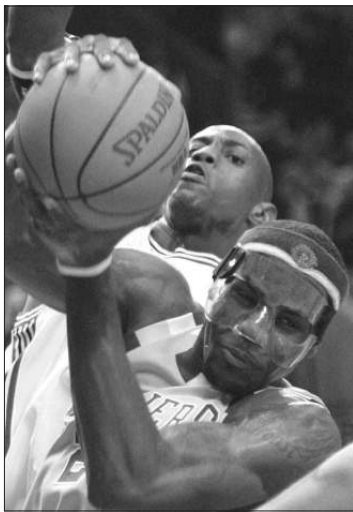
smooth," said McInnis, a former Clippers teammate of Odom's. "He could get triple-double without you even knowing it. They're similar in that aspect, but they do it differently. [James] is aggressive, he's attacking. Lamar is kind of laid back, picking and choosing."

Portland was finally home after a grueling six-game, 10-day road trip, during which they managed just one win. But even the comforts of home couldn't boost their depleted lineup.

Forward Zach Randolph missed his fourth game with a sore right knee. Already without Darius Miles (bruised left knee) and Shaqeeq Abdul-Rahim (right elbow surgery), the Blazers started Patterson and Theo Ratliff at forward.

The Blazers led 32-26 midway through the first half, but the Cavaliers took off on a 23-6 run to go up 51-38 on Sasha Pavlovic's layup. Cleveland led 55-49 at the half.

There was a brief skirmish early in the second half when Cleveland's Ira Newble appeared to shove Joel Przybilla down and the two faced off. The officials quickly stepped in, and technical fouls were called against both.



Cavaliers' LeBron James pulls down a rebound in front of Trail Blazers' Travis Outlaw. James had 27 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists to become the youngest player in NBA history to record a triple-double.

Butler hits game-winning shot for Lakers

BY JOHN NADEL
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Caron Butler finally got an opportunity to take a game-deciding shot, and he came through.

Butler's driving layup with 35 seconds to play put the Los Angeles Lakers ahead for good in a 93-90 victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves on Wednesday night.

"I'd have to say in college," Butler replied after being asked when he last made a game-winner. "The ball hasn't been placed in my hands."

Butler played two years in Miami before the Lakers acquired him with Lamar Odom and Brian Grant for Shaquille O'Neal last summer.

With Kobe Bryant on the sidelines because of a severely sprained right ankle, Butler got his shot in the last minute of a close game.

It helped that he was being guarded by Wally Szczerbiak — not known as a great defensive player.

"I saw that I had Szczerbiak on my back. I wanted to get an [isolation] play," Butler said. "I clapped twice and Terre [Brown] found me. I was able to go over [Szczerbiak]."

Butler drove the baseline to score for a 91-90 lead, and Minnesota's Kevin Garnett missed a baseline jumper with 13 seconds remaining.

"I thought it was in there," Garnett said. "It felt good when it left my hand. I thought Wally had the rebound for a second."

Indeed, Jumaine Jones came up with the ball. Garnett fouled Jones, and he made two free throws with 10 seconds left to complete the scoring.

Latrell Sprewell and Troy Hudson missed three-pointers before the buzzer sounded. The Timberwolves finished 1-for-14 from three-point range and are 2-for-30 from beyond the arc in their past two games.

"It's extremely poor shot selection when



Timberwolves guard Latrell Sprewell gets fouled on the way to the basket by the Lakers' Jumaine Jones during the first half.

you're shooting that many three's," Timberwolves coach Phil Saunders said. "We're not playing very smart right now. When you're 2-for-30, I mean, my 11-year-old daughters aren't very good, and they might be able to knock down a couple."

The game was the first between the teams at Staples Center since the Lakers eliminated the Timberwolves from the Western Conference finals last spring.

Neither looked like it belongs among the

NBA's elite teams right now.

Chucky Atkins led the Lakers with 25 points and a season-high 11 assists. Butler had 16 points; Jones added 12 points and eight rebounds, and Odom and Chris Mihm scored 11 each for Los Angeles.

"Lamar really stepped up and Caron hit a big shot," Bryant said. "It is a big win. A win like this brings us closer together."

Odom was limited to 29 minutes because of foul problems. He scored six points in the last 5½ minutes.

The win was the fifth in seven games for the Lakers (21-16) and their second in three games since Bryant sustained a severely sprained right ankle against Cleveland. He is expected to miss at least five more games.

The Timberwolves (19-19) have lost 11 of their last 15 games and fell to .500 for the first time since Nov. 9, when they were 2-2.

They went 12-3 last January, but are 3-8 this January.

Garnett led the Timberwolves with 27 points and nine rebounds.

Sprewell added 25 points, but shot just 9-for-28. Szczerbiak had 17 points and eight rebounds, and Anthony Carter added 13 points and a season-high eight assists.

The Timberwolves didn't arrive in Los Angeles until early Wednesday afternoon because of mechanical problems. Saunders said the team spent about six hours at the airport Tuesday before going home, and three more hours Wednesday morning before taking off.

A basket by Garnett, Carter's three-point play and a layup by Szczerbiak gave Minnesota an 82-78 lead with 5:40 remaining. But the Lakers battled back, and a three-pointer by Atkins with 2:40 left tied it at 86.

Garnett and Odom exchanged baskets before Sprewell got a basket on a go-ahead call against Jones. A free throw by Jones with 1:07 to play drew the Lakers within one point, and a miss by Sprewell from three-point range set the stage for Butler.

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Cowher: Steelers coach all business

COWHER, FROM BACK PAGE

Cowher dismisses the notion his teams were unprepared — read “outcoached” — but it’s evident the Steelers have altered their approach since losing 24-17 to New England in the AFC title game in January 2002.

There’s not a sliver of a chance Cowher would allow a Super Bowl rap video rehearsal at this week, as he did 10 years ago. He also hasn’t said one word about Super Bowl plans, as he did in 2002 — a calculation the Patriots turned into a motivational tool.

The Steelers’ minimalist plan is to focus every bit of attention on that day’s practice or that week’s game, never once daring to look behind or ahead. It’s the old one-game-at-a-time tactic, and it’s worked perfectly for 16 of 17 games.

“We realize the magnitude of the game, but you don’t deviate from what you’ve done to get here and we’re not going to do that,” said Cowher, who declined to alter practice or meeting times this week.

Cowher adopted the approach during training camp, when he eschewed previous attempts such as watching the movies or stopping a practice early because he liked what he saw.

“Maybe the last few years we’ve gotten away from some things,” Cowher said.

That the 47-year-old Cowher has been more motivated and more energized hasn’t been lost on his employers, who gave him a contract extension despite last season’s 6-10 record.

“He’s at the stage of his career where he’s made enough money, he’s raised a family, he’s been successful,” team president Art Rooney II said. “The only thing left for him to do is win a championship.”

Doing so this season might be Cowher’s biggest challenge yet.

Belichick is 8-1 in the playoffs to Cowher’s 8-8, but it’s evident Cowher dismisses all of this talk about the Genius vs. the Joke.

Despite Belichick’s success in “making successful defensive game plans, Cowher pointedly answered “No” when asked if the Patriots’ schemes are more complex than others in the league.

“To me, it’s not so much [playing] Bill as it is playing the New England Patriots,” Cowher said. “I don’t think it’s a mystic or anything else. You have to understand going in that what you see isn’t always what you get.”

“I think, the same could be said of the Steelers going into championship games.”

“We’ve got to seize this opportunity,” Cowher said.

Former coach proud of Falcons’ success

Reeves responsible for assembling much of team playing in NFC title game

By PAUL NEWBERRY

The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Dan Reeves will be watching the NFC championship game from afar.

He won’t have to call any plays, or manage the clock, or decide which guys to send on the field. All he has to do is make sure his television is switched to the right station.

Even so, the former Atlanta Falcons coach feels a definite sense of pride, knowing he played a role in building the team that is just one victory away from the Super Bowl.

In fact, Reeves gets credit for perhaps the most significant move in franchise history — the trade that landed Pro Bowl quarterback Michael Vick on the eve of the 2001 draft.

A lot of my coaches are still part of it. A lot of my players, too,” said Reeves, who coached the Falcons for almost seven seasons and still lives in Atlanta. “I have a good feeling about this football team.”

It’s his team anymore. Reeves was fired as the 2003 season was winding down, his tenure snuffed out by that most common offense — not enough wins.

The Falcons, who reached the second round of the playoffs in Reeves’ next-to-last year, were doomed when Vick broke his leg in a preseason game. With the team at 3-10, owner Arthur Blank made his move.

Reeves was told he could finish the season but wouldn’t be back in 2004. Not surprisingly, the curmudgeonly coach decided he would rather be fired right away.

Jim Mora was hired as Reeves’ replacement, inheriting a team composed mostly of players coached in by the previous regime. In a sign of respect, the new coach also kept one member of his predecessor’s staff — including Reeves’ son-in-law, special teams coordinator Joe DeCamillis.

“I’ve been thinking about the amount of credit for setting the table for us,” Mora said Wednesday. “My whole life, I looked up to him. Anytime I can pick his brain about things that might help the team, I do.”



Former Atlanta Falcons coach Dan Reeves, left, was fired last season, but he remains the only coach to take the team to a Super Bowl and he pulled off the trade on the eve of the 2001 draft that landed Michael Vick (7).

Reeves has called up Mora several times this season, most notably after a 56-10 loss to Kansas City in late October. The co-coach recounted how the Falcons got whipped by San Francisco early in the ‘98 season, but bounced back to make the Super Bowl the first time in franchise history.

“I thought we were in position to be one of the elite teams in the league, but the 49ers kicked our butts,” Reeves remembered.

“How the team reacted made me understand and know that we had a special group.” This team reacted the same way to the Kansas City debacle, winning at Denver the following week to spark a four-game winning streak. The Falcons won the NFC South going away and got the playoffs started with a 47-17 rout of St. Louis last weekend.

Now, it’s on to Philadelphia for Sunday’s NFC title game — and a spot in the Super Bowl.

Belichick: Pats coach regarded as master strategist

BELICHICK, FROM BACK PAGE

Manning’s longest completion gained just 18 yards and he failed to throw a touchdown pass for the first time in his 16 complete games this season.

“I think the person you have to ask is Belichick,” Colts tight end Marcus Pollard said. “What they did [Sunday] was different from what teams have been able to do against us all season.”

Patriots linebacker Mike Vrabel was one part of the defense that carried out Belichick’s orders. “We had a great plan, an unbelievable plan. Our coaches got together and came up with some good stuff,” Vrabel said.

“I don’t look stuff [Manning] hadn’t seen before.” Belichick and his coaches have been doing that all season.

Curtis Martin of the New York Jets led the NFL in rushing but in two games against the Patriots this season, both losses, he totaled only 103 yards on 33 carries with no touchdowns. His longest run covered 9 yards.

“Belichick is like the Bobby Fischer of football,” the running back said. “When you play him, he gives you a plan for you and prepare for you, he’s going to dissect you. He’s going to take your

whole strategy apart. And no matter what you do, he has an answer for it. That’s why Pittsburgh is going to have a hard time.”

If the Patriots win, Belichick will tie for the best playoff record among head coaches who have been in at least six games at 9-1.

The other one? Vince Lombardi, who won the first two Super Bowls with the Green Bay Packers.

But Belichick shrugs off all the accolades, preferring to scrutinize game film and ponder Xs and Os.

He even said Monday that his team has to “kind of start from scratch” in preparing for Pittsburgh because it spent last week and part of the previous week studying the Colts.

Pittsburgh has a much different offensive style than Indianapolis — power running instead of quick passing — but he does know the Steelers all too well from a 34-20 loss in Pittsburgh on Oct. 31.

If he loses to them again, he can’t imagine fans heaping praise

on him for being a brilliant tactician who designs just the right plays or a wise teacher who motivates his players to stay hungry.

“We’ve just got to go back to work, have a good week of preparation, get as mentally and physically prepared as we possibly can to play the best team in the AFC in their place,” he said.

“If we don’t, I’m sure none of those things will be said next week.”

The Patriots’ loss to Pittsburgh ended their 21-game winning streak. Their only other loss was by one point in Miami.

Still, Belichick shares the blame for the collapse against the Steelers in which the Patriots trailed 21-3 after one quarter, rushed for a grand total of 5 yards and held the ball for only 17:02. Roethlisberger threw two touchdowns in the first quarter and completed 18 of 24 passes.

So how could a team that had stopped Manning, who set an NFL record with 49 touchdown passes, crumble against a rookie

Reeves isn’t surprised by the Falcons’ success. Last season, after Vick returned to the lineup, they won three of their last four games. While the overall record was still a dismal 5-11, Reeves knew the team could make a run at the playoffs as long as Vick remained healthy.

“You always learn more about your players during adversity than when guys are playing well,” Reeves said. “Most of the guys really gave it everything they had last year. Those same guys are the ones who are playing real well this year.”

Of the 22 players expected to start against the Eagles, 17 are holdovers from the Reeves’ era. Vick is the most prominent of these, of course, but the list also includes Atlanta’s other three Pro Bowl players: tight end Alto Crumpler, defensive end Patrick Kerney and linebacker Keith Brooking.

That’s not to say Reeves would have gotten the same results as the 43-year-old Mora. The new coach is a generation younger and clearly seems to have a better connection with the players.

“I think he’s done a tremendous job,” Reeves said. “The key to being a good head coach is getting a good feel on the pulse of your football team. He’s done that well. He doesn’t dwell on negative things.”

Reeves didn’t attend any games at the Georgia Dome this season, saying it’s easier to watch on television than in Atlanta. For at least a few more days, he’s the only coach to take this franchise to a Super Bowl. And he should always be remembered as the coach who got No. 7 into a Falcons uniform.

“I had a lot of guys who didn’t leave this franchise in better shape than when I took over,” Reeves said. “I feel certain they will soon have a Super Bowl Parade down Peachtree Street. Very soon.”

While Reeves regrets that he couldn’t leave on his own terms, he has no reason to be bitter on television. And it’s clear he didn’t leave on the best of terms with Blank, who took over the franchise in 2002.

While Reeves regrets that he couldn’t leave on his own terms, he has no reason to be bitter on television. And it’s clear he didn’t leave on the best of terms with Blank, who took over the franchise in 2002.

“We didn’t do hardly anything well,” Belichick said. “Obviously, I did a terrible job. You get beat 34-13 or whatever it was, you don’t feel very good about your job.”

It was a rare failure for one of the greatest defensive coaches of the past two decades whose considerable offensive skills can be overshadowed.

He was defensive coordinator for the New York Giants when they won the Super Bowls in the 1960s and 1990s. He also worked with the Patriots’ quarterbacks in 2001 — Tom Brady’s first season as a starter after quarterbacks coach Dick Rehbein died that August. Belichick won his third NFL title that year.

He won another last season and must depart Pittsburgh for a chance at a fifth championship.

So by the time his players return to practice on Wednesday, the coaching wizard will have devised a plan for them to follow. And he’ll get them to their third Super Bowl in four years.

“We’re really starting a little bit further behind than we normally are” in preparations, he said, “but that’s just the way it is this time of year so we’ll work through it.”



Pittsburgh's Jeff Reed, left, has made 19 consecutive field-goal attempts, a team record, and has made 30 of 35 attempts this season. Last season, Reed was successful on only 23 of 32 field-goal tries.

Steelers' kicking game is now on solid footing

BY ALAN ROBINSON
The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — This might have been viewed as the biggest mismatch between the Steelers and Patriots when the season started: kickers Jeff Reed of Pittsburgh vs. Adam Vinatieri of New England.

Now, if Sunday's AFC championship game comes down to a field goal — just as Pittsburgh's divisional playoff game against the Jets did — the Steelers don't have the same disadvantage.

Reed has made 19 consecutive field-goal attempts, tying Gary Anderson's team record, and has missed only once since the first half of the season. He's not getting all chip shots, either; he is eight of 11 from 40 yards and beyond and 2-for-2 from 50 yards-plus this season.

The former North Carolina kicker hasn't won two Super Bowls in three seasons with field goals, as Vinatieri has done, but he has given the Steelers their most consistent kicker since Anderson starred for them from 1982-94.

Appropriately enough for the son of former Wichita State basketball player Morris Reed, Jeff Reed has rebounded from some difficult times to become a reliable and, often, clutch kicker. He has won three games with last-minute or last-play field goals this season, including the 20-17 overtime playoff win Saturday against the Jets.

"He's done a terrific job," running back Jerome Bettis said. "When he puts that 30 on, you know this guy's coming to play. When you have a dependable kicker, it's priceless."

Just ask the Jets, who would be playing New England instead of Pittsburgh if kicker Doug Brien hadn't missed potential game-winning field goal tries of 47 and 43 yards in the final two minutes of regulation.

Reed, signed following an unusual midseason tryout camp in 2002, was an upgrade over the kicker he replaced (Todd Peterson) but displayed troubling signs of inconsistency last season. He was 23 of 32, compared with 30 of 35 this season, and five of nine during December 2003.

And see if this scenario sounds familiar, if only in reverse: the Jets beat the Steelers 6-0 last season because Brian made two field goal tries and Reed was 0-for-2.

Just like the Steelers, who improved from 6-10 in 2003 to 15-1 during the regular season, Reed has significantly upgraded his play.

"The guys are moving the ball, blocking for me and Mike and (holder) Chris (Gardocki) are doing a great job," Reed said. "I know every ball's going to be there, so it's in my court. It's just a matter of being consistent like I know I can be."

Kickers often get noticed only when they miss, yet coach Bill Cowher held up Reed as an example to his teammates during a recent team meeting. Cowher's message: Get this guy in position, and he'll make the big kick for you.

Still, Reed acknowledges being nervous before his game-winning 33-yarder against the Jets.

"I think I stopped shaking (Sunday)," Reed said. "It was real emotional."

Going against Vinatieri is a challenge because Reed considers the All-Pro kicker the best in the sport. Vinatieri was 2-for-2 during New England's 20-3 rout of the Colts on Sunday after going 31 of 33 during the regular season.

"As far as one-on-one, I'm going against the best," Reed said. "He's proven himself. Once again, he's going to the Pro Bowl. He's a great kicker and a great role model for me. I want to be where he is someday, and I'm striving to where he is."

On Sunday, he will be.

Home-field advantage seems to be more myth than reality

BY CHICO HARLAN
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

PITTSBURGH — Long ago, three words fused into one phrase — Home. Field. Advantage — and when somebody dropped that phrase into the cauldron of sports debate, it became a term that warped under the pressure of myth and fact. It grew from a statistical trend into a built-in sporting phenomenon. It developed such a roll-off-the-tongue acceptance, who even bothered to notice that home teams in the NFL playoffs have lost six of the past 14 league championship games?

Home-field advantage became a duty. Strive for it. Earn it. Protect it.

"From the time you start with football," Steelers cornerback Chad Scott said recently, "everybody talks about winning at home. That's part of the football mentality."

At its foundation, home-field advantage is instinctive, a primal desire to protect one's surroundings. For athletes, the desire rings so true that the phrase has rearranged itself into a pop-culture omnipresence. In a commercial for sporting gear company Under Armour, a football player screams, with animalistic urgency, "We must protect this house!" A recent VISA television ad features several New England Patriots barking about their desire to prevent opponents from winning at home — where, incidentally, the Patriots have won 20 consecutive games after Sunday's 20-3 thumping of the Indianapolis Colts.

To heck with the facts and myths of home-field advantage — we'll get to that later. Home field, more than anything, is perpetuated by pride. Right now, the Steelers find themselves on a walkway to the Super Bowl. They need only one more victory — Sunday at Heinz Field against those same Patriots — to get there.

"And when you come to Heinz Field," running back Jerome Bettis said, "you're not going to leave with a win."

The AFC's No. 1 seed, the Steelers have yet to lose at Heinz Field this season.

By all accounts, however. For all one can say to evidence the truth of home-field advantage — one example: home playoff teams, since 1970, have won 70 percent of their games — the Steelers have done much in the past decade to raise doubts. On Jan. 15, 1995, the Steelers lost at Three Rivers Stadium in the AFC championship to the underdog Chargers. Three years later, they lost in similar fashion to the Denver Broncos. By the time New England shocked the Steelers at Heinz Field in January 2002, such losses had become a trend, a painful, embarrassing trend.

Advantage or not, failing to protect one's home field creates discord in the whole football cosmos. Strive, earn, protect ... strive, earn, protect — that's what players have trained themselves to expect.

"Nah, man," Scott said, when asked about Steelers' playoff struggles at home.

Interview over. He walked away, unwilling to talk.

The home team, in Vegas, generally receives a three-point edge in the point spread. If, for instance, the Steelers and Patriots were judged as equals when playing at a neutral site, the Steelers would be favored by three points in a game played at Heinz Field; New England would be favored by three in a game played at Gillette Stadium. By a prognosticator's eye, a home stadium is good for a field goal.

But more accurately, home field, sandwiched between the gap of myth and fact, defies any general rule. By some accounts, home-field advantage is the push an NFL team needs to reach the Super Bowl.

"It was a big advantage for us," said Franco Harris, a Steeler with four championship rings. "In playoff games, there's an energy and emotion in the stands that can play a lot into what happens on the field."

By other accounts, home field is an element so often assumed to be advantageous, people forget about the pitfalls. Said former Steelers coach Chuck Noll: "There are some downsides to being at home, too — people asking you for tickets, family concerns. A lot of outside distractions."

Fact is, home teams win NFL playoff games at a remarkably stable rate. In each of the past four decades, home teams have won between 67 and 73 percent of their games. Despite that, many perceive that the advantage of home field has dissipated in the past decade. New stadiums, with their sterile ambience, tend to suffocate the loudest fans. Player movement through free agency melts away each team's identity. And most important, perhaps, a few statistical trends are starting to indicate that playing at home means less than ever.

Since the NFL created its current, 12-team playoff format in 1990, only half of all 1 seeds (14 of 28) have advanced to the Super Bowl. Teams playing at home lost just four conference championships in the 1980s; home teams have lost four times in four years since 2000. Two weeks ago, three of four road teams won the playoff games.

"I would not say the league is inclined to be a place where home field doesn't mean anything," Steelers President Art Rooney II said. "The league has always understood that there should be a home-field advantage, but it's just a fact of life now that there is more parity than ever."

Even so, playing at home comes packaged with natural benefits. The top two playoff seeds in each conference receive an extra off week, perfect for healing injured players. Home teams depend on crowd noise to stifle opposing offenses. Teams spend their whole season, as the Steelers did in 2004, aiming for those rewards.

Then, once you earn all that, you just hope it makes a difference.



Fans at Pittsburgh's Heinz Field get excited about Saturday's playoff game against the Jets. The Steelers have lost two straight and three of the past four times they have been in the AFC title game — all of which have been at home.



According to a teammate, Eagles quarterback Donovan McNabb (5) is "playing with a chip on his shoulder." AP

McNabb passes in confidence

By ROB MAADDI

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Donovan McNabb sat in a dark room with his two dogs and watched film of the Philadelphia Eagles' loss to Carolina in last year's NFC championship game.

"My dogs talked to me and told me to keep my head up, and I think I was all right," McNabb joked.

As the Eagles (14-3) prepare for their fourth consecutive NFC title game against Atlanta (12-5) on Sunday, McNabb certainly doesn't appear to be feeling the pressure of having lost the past three conference championships.

The five-time Pro Bowl quarterback cracked jokes, mimicked reporters and never stopped sniffling in a 10-minute news conference Wednesday.

With snow already falling and a possible storm forecast for Philadelphia this weekend, a writer wanted to know how bad weather affects a running quarterback.

"I wouldn't know," McNabb quickly shot back. "You like that one, huh?"

Though he's one of the best scramblers in the league, McNabb has never considered himself a running quarterback. In fact, he's always hated the label and prefers sitting in the pocket.

McNabb threw more and ran much less this season, finishing

with a career-low 41 carries — 30 fewer than last season. Having All-Pro wide receiver Terrell Owens for the first 14 games made it easier for McNabb to stay in the pocket and have the best season of his six-year career.

McNabb set a team record with 3,875 yards passing, became the first NFL player to throw for more than 30 touchdowns (31) and less than 10 interceptions (eight), and his passer rating of 104.7 was second in the NFC.

Often criticized for being inaccurate, McNabb drastically improved his completion percentage to 64.0 percent — almost six points higher than his career average — and broke an NFL record by completing 24 consecutive passes over two games.

"I thought Donovan was a great player before, but I think the Miami game last year is kind of where he had it and everything clicked," Eagles coach Andy Reid said, referring to McNabb's performance in a victory at Miami on Dec. 15, 2003. "He was seeing the whole field, he had complete control of the huddle and the defenses that were thrown at him. It has been uphill since then and he has done a great job with it."

McNabb and the rest of his teammates were tired of hearing questions about playing without Owens, who went down with an ankle injury last month and has

an outside chance at playing in the Super Bowl if the Eagles win. They silenced some of those critics with a convincing 27-14 victory over Minnesota in a second-round playoff game.

McNabb led the Eagles to touchdowns on three of the first four possessions against the Vikings, finishing with 286 yards passing and two TDs. Two of his three rushes were kneel-downs at the end of the game.

"He is playing with a chip on his shoulder that he wants to be the No. 1 quarterback in the league," wideout Todd Pinkston said of McNabb. "By him going out and putting up the numbers that he does and getting everyone involved, it comes to a point where you notice it."

A team leader since early in his career, McNabb has an even stronger voice this season. When Owens was injured, McNabb said he's the captain and he'll lead the team to the Super Bowl. Last week, he vowed the Eagles would beat Minnesota.

A team leader since early in his career, McNabb has an even stronger voice this season. When Owens was injured, McNabb said he's the captain and he'll lead the team to the Super Bowl. Last week, he vowed the Eagles would beat Minnesota.

"He brings a lot of confidence and leadership," running back Brian Westbrook said. "He's a good guy to be around. He keeps everything light. We're able to have fun with him out there. At the same time, he's a professional. He's a guy that can get things done at any time."

Falcons quarterback Michael Vick said that was the only time he's ever played in snow. Eagles QB Donovan McNabb grew up in Chicago, so he's used to cold weather.

"We've come out on top when I've played in it, so hopefully we can continue that streak," McNabb said.

It was snowing and the temperatures were in the low 20s on Wednesday, but that didn't affect Eagles coach Andy Reid, who works in shorts.

"Sometimes I forget to put my sweats on before I go out," Reid said.

Linehan leaves Vikings to run Dolphins offense

The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Scott Linehan agreed Wednesday to a three-year contract with the Miami Dolphins to be their offensive coordinator, leaving the Minnesota Vikings without one.

In three seasons in Minnesota, Linehan oversaw one of the league's best offenses. The Vikings ranked second in the NFL in 2002, first in 2003 and fourth in 2004 in total yards.

Though Linehan wouldn't divulge specific terms of his deal, he's believed to be getting a significant raise. Minnesota has one of the lowest-paid coaching staffs in the league.

After interviewing with new Miami coach Nick Saban, Linehan decided the security offered by Dolphins owner Wayne Huizenga was too attractive to pass up. Saban, who led LSU to a co-national championship in 2003, was given a five-year contract.

"He's hired a new coach and given him a very good basis to rebuild here," Linehan said by phone from Florida, "and they're going to give him time to get it done."

Linehan and his wife, Kristin, have three sons: Matthew, 10, Michael, 8, and Marcus, 4.

Vikings coach Mike Tice, who gave Linehan his first chance to coach in the NFL in 2002, is only under contract through next season. Owner Red McCombs also has the team on the market, and the uncertainty surrounding the franchise was a concern for Linehan.

"There's nothing there that's stable," he said. "Unfortunately that's the business we're in."

Though Miami went an AFC-worst 4-12 last season and ranked worst in the league in total offense, the environment is clearly less volatile.

"This is a commitment from the very top all the way down," Linehan said.

Linehan was Saban's first choice for filling the job, but he had to wait until the Vikings' season was over. They lost 27-14 in Philadelphia to the Eagles in Sunday's divisional playoff game.

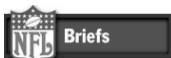
Linehan did as Daunte Culpepper's quarterbacks coach the past two years — as well as his history of developing players at that position in college — was a big reason why he was wanted elsewhere. Linehan canceled an interview with Jacksonville coach Jack Del Rio after accepting the Miami job.

Williams, Claret on list of early entries for draft

NEW YORK — Maurice Claret and Mike Williams can rest easy. They're on the list.

Claret and Williams were among 49 underclassmen granted early entry into the NFL Draft on Wednesday. Players needed to file paperwork with the league by Jan. 15 and had until Wednesday to remove their names from consideration.

Other prominent names included junior quarterbacks Alex Smith of Utah and Aaron Rodgers



of California. Running backs and defensive backs dominated the list, with 11 of each leaving school early.

It's been two long years for Claret, the talented running back who was suspended before his sophomore season at Ohio State for NCAA violations and never returned. Claret initially won a ruling to enter the draft last year, but the decision was reversed by an appeals court.

Williams, then a sophomore wide receiver at Southern California, declared for the draft after a lower court ruled in Claret's favor. After the reversal, he was not allowed to return to the Trojans, so he sat out last season.

The NFL Draft takes place April 25-24.

Colts promote Caldwell to assistant head coach

INDIANAPOLIS — Colts quarterbacks coach Jim Caldwell was promoted Thursday to assistant head coach.

Caldwell was the coach at Wake Forest from 1993-2000 and was on Colts coach Tony Dungy's staff at Tampa Bay in 2001. He came to Indianapolis with Dungy the next season.

"Jim is one of the foremost coaches I have been associated with during my career," Dungy said. "On more than one occasion he has drawn interest from other teams, but Jim always elected to remain in our program."

Caldwell's promotion to his influence on our quarterbacks in the level of their play, in the quality of their mechanics and in their production on the field."

Caldwell, who played defensive back at Iowa, also was an assistant at Southern Illinois, Northwestern, Colorado, Louisville and Penn State. He will continue coaching Colts quarterbacks.

Vikings make Loney offensive coordinator

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. — The Minnesota Vikings made Steve Loney their new offensive coordinator Thursday, a day after the Miami Dolphins lured Scott Linehan away with a three-year contract.

The 52-year-old Loney also will retain his position as offensive line coach, the team said.

"We are happy to be able to keep some continuity on our offensive staff by promoting Steve Loney," Vikings coach Mike Tice said in a statement. "He has proven himself during his coaching career and has been key to our success here during the previous three seasons."

Loney was offensive coordinator at the University of Minnesota in 1998-99 and at his alma mater, Iowa State, from 1995-97 and 2000. "I began his coaching career as a graduate assistant at Iowa State in 1974."

Terms of Loney's deal were not disclosed.

Snow possible for AFC, NFC title games

The Associated Press

Brrrr! There could be snow at both NFL conference championship games.

Forecasters are calling for game-day temperatures of 20 degrees and a chance of snow showers for Sunday night's Patriots-Steelers AFC championship game. There is a chance of heavier snowfall earlier in the day, but it is expected to stop by kickoff.

The weather could be worse across the state in Philadelphia for the NFC championship game between the Falcons and Eagles in the afternoon. Snow is predict-

ed this weekend, with anywhere from a minimal amount to a major storm.

NFL rules say the field should be covered on the day and night before a game if there is any chance of precipitation. The Steelers usually keep Heinz Field covered, though it was left uncovered during some recent warm days to encourage fans to go to games.

The weather could be a factor in Philadelphia, considering the Falcons play in a dome — although they went to Lambeau Field and beat the Green Bay Packers in snow two years ago in the playoffs.

Free-agent Delgado meets the Mets; Rangers deck

BY RONALD BLUM
The Associated Press

Carlos Delgado met with the New York Mets in Puerto Rico for a second time Thursday, a three-hour session that included the team's ownership and the first baseman's agent.

Baseball roundup

Delgado plans to meet Friday with Texas Rangers owner Tom Hicks and general manager John Hart. He also is being courted by Florida and Baltimore, although the Orioles have not been mentioned prominently in recent days by his agent, David Sloane.

Mets chief operating officer Jeff Wilpon and general manager Omar Minaya were at Thursday's session with Delgado and Sloane.

"Having Jeff Wilpon join us for this meeting made it possible to discuss the issues regarding our respective proposals that we felt needed clarification," Sloane wrote in an e-mail. He said his side had a "better understanding" of "the challenges making this deal presents."

"I anticipate having further conversations with Omar very soon in an attempt to move things forward from here," Sloane wrote.

Minaya is trying to sign his third major free agent this offseason, following a \$53 million, four-year deal with three-time Cy Young Award winner Pedro Martinez and a \$119 million, seven-year contract with All-Star center fielder Carlos Beltran.

Delgado, 32, and former Chicago



Free-agent first baseman Carlos Delgado has met with the Florida Marlins and New York Mets. He plans to meet with the owner and general manager of the Texas Rangers on Friday.

go White Sox outfielder Magglio Ordonez are the last unsigned players among the top free agents.

The Mets would count on Delgado to help revive an offense that scored just 684 runs last year, 12th among the 16 NL teams.

In news Wednesday, Brian Jor-

dan returned to Atlanta, where he starred for the Braves and the NFL's Falcons. The outfielder, who will be 38 by Opening Day, got a \$600,000, one-year contract from Atlanta that allows him to earn an additional \$400,000 in performance and roster bonuses.



Brian Jordan, 37, who hasn't played more than 66 games in a season since 2002, agreed to a one-year, \$600,000 contract with the Atlanta Braves on Wednesday.

"I'm in great shape, back in my football days shape," Jordan said. "I've worked hard to get to this point."

Jordan, slowed by injuries, has not played in more than 66 games since 2002, and he hit .222 with five homers and 23 RBIs for Texas last season.

Esteban Loaiza agreed to a \$2.9 million, one-year contract with the Washington Nationals, who also have an \$800,000, one-year deal to relieve Antonio Osuna.

Loaiza went 21-9 with a 2.90

ERA and a league-leading 207 strikeouts for the Chicago White Sox in 2003, was the AL starter in the All-Star Game and finished second in Cy Young Award voting behind Toronto's Roy Halladay. He struggled with his velocity last year, going 9-5 with a 4.86 ERA for the White Sox, then was traded to the New York Yankees and went 1-2 with a 5.0 ERA in 10 regular-season games.

"Of course, he's a gamble," Nationals General Manager Jim Bowden said. "Obviously, if he was coming off the year he had a year ago, we couldn't afford him."

Texas agreed to a \$1.1 million contract with right-hander Carlos Almanzar, leaving 37 players in arbitration among the eight who filed last Friday.

Pitcher Tony Saunders, who retired in 2000 after breaking his left arm for the second time, agreed to a minor league contract with Baltimore. On May 26, 1999, the humerus bone in his left arm broke while he was throwing a pitch in a game at Tampa Bay.

"The last four years, I never really thought about it because of how it ended," he said. "It didn't end where someone told me I wasn't good enough. It ended on a very bad injury. Did I miss the game? Most definitely. But it was never really a thought to come back and pitch again."

Also agreeing to minor league contracts were pitcher Aaron Sele and infielder Ricky Gutierrez (Seattle), infielder Jose Jimenez (Arizona), infielder Jose Offerman (Philadelphia), third baseman Dean Palmer (Detroit), and infielder Shyne Halter and outfielder Marty Cordova (Tampa Bay).

Two days of talks net nothing in lockout

BY IRA PODELL
The Associated Press

After two days of negotiations, the NHL and the players' association appeared no closer to a deal that could save the season.

Representatives to the NHL and the players' association met for 4½ hours Thursday in Toronto, the second straight day the sides held discussions in an attempt to end the four-month lockout.

The sides also held a five-hour meeting in Chicago on Wednesday, but they remained divided on the idea of cost certainty, a concept the players' association says is an unacceptable salary cap.

"We've had two good days of communication," Bill Daly, the NHL's chief legal officer, said. "But we still have very strong philosophical differences."

"I can't say we're any closer," Daly said. The two-day session was "the best dynamic to date in this process," but the only thing the sides appeared to agree on was that they are still far apart.

"We clearly have some strong



Union President Trevor Linden, above, initiated talks Tuesday with a group representing NHL owners.

differences of opinion," said Ted Saskin, the players' association's senior director.

Talks are expected to resume at some point, but no meeting has been scheduled.

"We just continue to work very hard at trying to satisfy both parties," Daly said.

More than half of the regular season — 671 of 1,230 games through Thursday has been wiped out, plus the All-Star Game.

This latest setback again pushes to the forefront the possibility that there will be no hockey this season. "We all know time is not an ally," Saskin said. "Our lines of communication are open."

As PGA Tour returns to mainland, Duval quietly comes back to work

BY DOUG FERGUSON
The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — David Duval gets a new start this year, and no one is sure what to expect.

Least of all, him. Formerly No. 1 in the world, Duval took a seven-month break from golf last year before returning to the U.S. Open. He was refreshed, happier than ever with his new wife and family, and showed promise toward the end of the season when he made the cut in three of his last six events.

But his offseason golf consisted of only 15 holes.

No rounds — holes. And 10 of those came Tuesday at Torrey Pines, a course he has not seen in seven years.

"It's been cold, and there's a lot of snow on the ground," said Duval, who now lives in Denver. "I had planned on practicing a bit, but it just didn't work out."

The next level is high. Expectations are low when the Buick Invitational begins Thursday.

"I guess my biggest goal would be just to work on the things I've been working on and feel that much more comfortable with it," Duval said, referring to a change to a weaker grip. "I'm not as far

along as I would have liked to have been. I just have to continue to work on it."

Indeed, he remains a work in progress.

After a 20-minute session with the media, Duval headed for the range. After going through some wedges, middle and long irons, he pulled his driver from the bag and hit the first one onto Torrey Pines Boulevard. The next one was pure, some 300 yards to the back end of the range. The third was a snap hook.

Chris Perry stood behind him, making a few observations. Before long, most of his shots were relatively straight. But when he showed up Wednesday morning for his pro-am round, Duval walked stiffly.

"I'm sure," he said. "I haven't hit that many balls in a while."

How long did he stay on the range? "About an hour," he said.

OK, so he's no Vijay Singh.

And by the sound of it, Duval has no plans to be Singh — at least in terms of trying to take away his No. 1 ranking.

He has long believed — even before winning 11 of 34 starts to ascend to No. 1 in the world in 1999, and later winning the 2001 British Open — that there is more to golf than simply winning.

In fact, it was that claret jug he won at Lory Lytham & St. Annes that made him wonder, "Is that all there is?"

Duval will measure success by his own standards. For now, it means feeling comfortable with his swing, getting the sensation of a clean shot and most of all, enjoying his time on the PGA Tour.

A forgotten man last year, it won't be hard for him to disappear at Torrey Pines — and not just because heavy rain has made the rough thicker than usual.

The attention is at the top of the rankings — Duval is No. 526, one spot ahead of Jay Delsing, who's caddy for Corey Pavin this week.

Singh is starting to entrench himself at No. 1, coming off a victory last week in the Sony Open for his 10th title in 28 starts.

Tiger Woods is starting to find his groove, hitting a dozen putts he missed inside 8 feet kept him from winning the Mercedes Championships at Kapalua. Ernie Els might have played the best of any one last week, finishing one shot behind Singh in the Sony Open, and two shots back at Kapalua.

Mickelson is the only player in the top five who has a dozen putts this year, skipping the winners-only Mercedes Championships to make his '05 debut in his hometown.

SPORTS



Ex-coach Reeves enjoys watching success of team he helped put together, Page 36

Can't win big one?

Cowher gets another crack at beating Patriots' coach, leading Steelers to title

BY ALAN ROBINSON
The Associated Press

For someone saddled with the reputation of not winning the big one, Bill Cowher certainly coaches in a lot of big games. That's why there's extra incentive in Sunday's AFC championship game for one of the most successful coaches to never win a Super Bowl: The man widely considered pro football's best coach is on the opposing sideline.

Cowher, the Steelers' coach since 1992, has won more regular-season games and division titles than the Patriots' Bill Belichick — and just as many playoff games. When the two went head-to-head in the same division for four seasons from 1992-95, Cowher won three division titles to Belichick's none.

Amid the one-sided comparisons is the singular statistic that explains why Belichick is the resident wizard among NFL coaches, and Cowher is considered to be merely among the elite.

Super Bowls won: Belichick 2, Cowher 0. And it's not just winning football's biggest game that's been the problem — Cowher is 0-1 in the Super Bowl — it's getting there.

This is the fifth time since 1995 the Steelers have staged the AFC title game, yet they have won only once and were upset three times as a favorite.

Can't win the big one? Seems the problem has been more like can't-win-the-one-before-the-big-one.

"I want to win a championship," Cowher said, resolutely, aware his career will seem incomplete unless he raises the Lombardi Trophy. "It has been a void that has been there."

Void? It's been a Grand Canyon-sized crater, especially because he is one of only two Steelers coaches in 36 seasons, yet is clearly the least accomplished. Chuck Noll might have won only two playoff games in his final 12 seasons, but he is still the only coach to win four Super Bowls.

Cowher, talking Tuesday, didn't try to rationalize the Steelers' AFC title game upset losses to San Diego (January 1995), Denver (1998) or New England (2002).

"I think we have been prepared to play every game," he said. "When you go into the playoffs, you are playing quality teams and you can't turn the ball over and squander scoring opportunities. Those things have a way of staring you in the face at the end of a football game."

Sounds like a simplistic answer for a complex man — one who trails only Joe Gibbs, Bill Parcells and Mike Holmgren in playoff victories among active coaches, yet is the only one of that group without a Super Bowl title.



Pittsburgh coach Bill Cowher has led the Steelers to the AFC championship game five times since 1995 with no Super Bowl titles to show for it so far.



New England coach Bill Belichick has led the Patriots to Super Bowl victories in two of the past three years, but hasn't yet come up with a plan to stop Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger.

Pittsburgh one more test for Belichick

BY HOWARD ULMAN
The Associated Press

FOXBORO, Mass. — The coaching genius knows how quickly his reputation can be tarnished.

Another loss to the Steelers and Bill Belichick could go from the mastermind who baffled Peyton Manning to the bungler who still can't beat Ben Roethlisberger.

"It's a nice compliment" that some people consider him one of the top coaches in NFL history, the New England coach said Monday.

"I don't think it really means much this week. I don't think anybody cares about that. I'm sure Pittsburgh doesn't care."

Belichick already has won two Super Bowls in three years and led the Patriots to consecutive 14-2 seasons. On Sunday, his reputation grew in a 20-3 playoff victory over the high-scoring Indianapolis Colts and MVP Manning that put New England in Sunday's AFC championship game in Pittsburgh.

SEE BELICHICK ON PAGE 36

Suns move to top of standings as Suns' slide continues; LeBron becomes youngest to record NBA triple-double

Pages 34-35



Undefeated No. 4 Duke gives upstart Miami taste of life at top of ACC

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Hewitt pushed to four sets by Blake before moving on in Australian Open

Page 32

